

4136342 PPH/M: MAJOR: INFECTIOUS DISEAS; M.Sc. (PUBLIC HEALTH)  
KEY WORDS : ARI/ MATERNAL BEHAVIOR

BOONLERT BUTCHAN: FACTORS OF MOTHERS' HEALTH BEHAVIOR RELATED TO SEVERITY OF ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS. THESIS ADVISORS: AMORNRATH PODHIPAK, Ph.D., ROONGROTE POOMRIEW, Ph.D., PENSRI KRAMOMTHONG M.D. 87 P. ISBN 974-664-035-6

Acute respiratory infections are the most common illnesses in childhood, comprising approximately 50% of all illnesses in children under 5 years and 30% in children of 5-12 years. This study design was conceptualized as a case-control study. The purpose of this study was to determine the maternal behavior regarding severe ARI in children aged under five years. The target population was mothers who brought a child aged under five years with ARI to outpatient and inpatient departments of Sawanpracharuk Hospital, Maternal and Child Hospital and Maewong District Hospital, Nakhornsawan province, during the period of June to August 1999. Data were collected using questionnaires to interview 240 mothers, who were divided into two groups: the case group (severe ARI) of 120 cases, and the control group (non-severe ARI) of 120 cases.

The multivariate analysis of mothers' behavior related to severity of acute respiratory infection in children aged under five years was performed. Mothers' behavior related to severe ARI were: administration of throat swab (OR = 6.58, 95% CI = 2.02-21.43), giving no breast-feeding or with breast-feeding for less than four months (OR = 6.36, 95% CI = 2.26-17.92), refraining from some essential foods (OR = 3.77, 95% CI = 1.35 -10.54), having left over drugs of previous use (OR = 3.65, 95% CI = 1.44 -9.26), and not giving warm water while the children were ill (OR = 3.22, 95% CI = 1.10 -9.43). The study showed that children who received high humidity from long time sponge bath had a less risk of severe ARI than children who received high humidity from short time sponge bath. The policy related recommendation from this study is that, the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) should terminate the production of throat swab medication.