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KEY WORD : HEALTH BEHAVIORS/SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN/ASTHMA

KANYA WANCHAINAWIN : THE STUDY OF HEALTH BEHAVIORS OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN WITH DIFFERENT LEVEL OF ASTHMATIC CONTROL. THESIS ADVISOR: PORN SRI SRIUSSADAPORN, M.Ed. (EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH), VIRAT KLAIBUBPHA, M.S.Ed., FONGCUM TILOKSKULCHAI, Ph.D.(NURSING) 94 p. ISBN 974-589-772-8

Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children. Asthma is controllable, and control is achieved by appropriate therapy and health behaviors. Health behavior is one of the importance factors for asthmatic control. The proposes of this study are to investigate health behaviors of school-age children with different levels of asthmatic control and to investigate the factors which affect asthmatic control. One hundred and forty children between 7 to 12 years of age who have been treated at the Allergy Clinic of Siriraj Hospital, were the sample for this study. Data were collected by interviewing children regarding health behaviors and severity of asthma. Data were analyzed by using percentage, t-test and stepwise multiple regression.

Results from this study reveal that most of the subjects had appropriate health behaviors except for procedure at the beginning of the asthmatic attack, the usage of bronchodilator before hard exercise and breathing exercise. The score comparison of health behavior between good and poor asthmatic control shows that the score of the good group was statistically significantly higher than the poor one (P<.001). The stepwise multiple regression show that 23.9 percent of the varience of asthmatic control was accouted for by the asthmatic education and health behaviors (P<.05).

The school-age asthmatic children should have asthma that is well controled. They should be encouraged to have appropriate health behaviors with the asthmatic knowledge and taking care themselves, which stress establishing procudure of the asthmatic attack, adequate medication and exercise.