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KEY WORD : LIFE-THREATENING DEHYDRATION / DIARRHEA IN CHILDREN

UBON THONGCHOWY : RISK FACTORS FOR LIFE-THREATENING DEHYDRATION IN YOUNG CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS WITH ACUTE DIARRHEA.

THESIS ADVISOR: AMORN RATH PODHIPAK, Ph.D.(Epidemiology), KANDA VATHANOPHAS, M.D., M.Sc. in Hygien.(P.H Microbiol), JONGKOL PODANG, .Sc.(P.H), PRAVIT VANITCHANON, M.D., 89 P. ISBN 974-589-486-9.

The purpose of this research was to study the risk factors for development of life - threatening dehydration in children under 5 years. A hospital - based case control study was conducted at Satun provincial hospital and community hospitals in Satun province during the period of July 1996 to May 1997. The study compared 95 diarrheal cases who had moderate or severe dehydration with 95 diarrheal controls who had no dehydration or mild dehydration. Chi-square test, univariate analysis and multiple logistic regression were used to test the association of variables with life-threatening dehydration in these children.

From multiple logistic regression, six factors statistically associated with life-threatening dehydration were lack of ORT during diarrhea (OR = 3.81, 95% CI = 1.11-13.12), lack of advice concerning with diarrhea (OR = 7.23, 95% CI = 1.93-27.12), long duration of illness 73-168 hr (OR = 5.92, 95% CI = 1.06-33.52), stooling frequency 4-8 times/day (OR = 13.58, 95% CI = 1.53-120.40) stooling frequency 9-20 times/day (OR = 39.64, 95% CI = 3.76-427.64), vomiting 9 - 20 times/day (OR = 6.53, 95% CI = 1.25-34.17) and high body temperature 37.6-40 C (OR = 14.17, 95% CI = 3.97-50.62).

The result of this study can be used as a guideline in designing a health education program for mothers or caretakers to use oral rehydration solution continuously during diarrhea episodes and observe signs and symptoms of children with diarrhea. This will be useful for preventing death due to dehydration.