

THE PREVALENCE AND RISK RATIO OF PATIENTS SUSPECTED OF
HAVING LEPTOSPIROSIS

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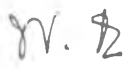
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ABSTRACT

Leptospirosis has become the emerging health problem in Thailand since the outbreak in 1996. The epidemic is still going on to the year 2000. The new serovar and increasing awareness of physicians and communities are identified as the causes of the epidemic. Many consequences remain because of the lack of the standard guideline to diagnose leptospirosis, which appropriates to use in Thailand.

In 1998, a matched case control study could identify the independent risk factors associated with leptospirosis infection. However, these risk factors have not yet been included in the guideline. This thesis aims to estimate the effectiveness of using these specific risk factors to help physicians diagnose leptospirosis in Thailand by measuring the prevalence and risk ratio among patients who had risk factors and those who did not have risk factors.

For the trial of questionnaire, data exercise was carried out at Yupparadsawangdandin Hospital, Sakon Nakorn province. The results indicated that the overall prevalence of leptospirosis among the patients was 37%. Among the risk positive patients and risk negative patients, the prevalence rates were 54.7% and 17.0%, respectively. The relative risk between these risk positive patients and risk negative patients was 3.21 ($1.63 < RR < 6.33$). The lesson learnt from the data exercise can improve the instrument for the full-scale study. It can also emphasize the necessary of the guideline to diagnose leptospirosis. The benefits of the guideline are providing better understanding on burden of the disease, decreasing confusion among health personnel and finally improvement of health status of the risk group.

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