

## Management of Cancer Pain at the pain Clinic Ramathibodi Hospital

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Cancer is ranked the second cause of death in Thai patients. More than seventy percent of advancedstage cancer associates with severe pain but pain relief seems to be inadequate and unsatisfied to the patients, their families and the physicians themselves.

A descriptive study was done to analyse cancer patients referred to pain clinic, Ramathibodi Hospital during 1993. The objectives are to collect the baseline data, to evaluate the treatments and the results. This data will be useful for improvement of pain management service in the future.

Fifty-two cancer patients, consulted mostly from department of surgery, aged average 50 years, sixty-five percent had severe continuous pain (VAS = 8.9+-0.9) before treatments. Forty-six percent had depression and thirty-nine percent had acute anxiety-pain greatly affected socioeconomic status of the patient and forty-six percent loss job. We found that the causes of unsatisfied pain relief were incomplete pain assessment, improper usage of analgesics and adjuvant drugs (agent, dose, frequency). More than

twenty percent received analgesics at "prn dose".

After complete pain assessment, treatments at pain clinic followed the 3-step analgesic ladder program of WHO. Seventy-five percent of patients were treated

effectively by analgesics and twenty-five percent were treated by nerve blocks and other modalities. Most of the patients satisfied with the result of treatments and had improved quality of life. Average VAS after treatment was 1.4 0.6.