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Effects of Internet-based instruction on HIV-prevention knowledge and practices among men who have sex with men

Kasatpibal N., Kasatpibal, N., Grimes R.M., Surapagdee N., Fongkaew W., Srikantha W., Viseskul N.

ABSTRACT

HIV infection is increasing among men who have sex with men. In this study, the effects of Internet-based instruction on HIV-prevention knowledge were evaluated. The sample consisted of 162 men-who-have-sex-with-men volunteers in Thailand. The research instruments included a demographic data questionnaire, a knowledge test, and an HIV preventive practice questionnaire. The participants completed these instruments upon entry to the study and four months later. After entry to the study, the participants were given access to a previously-developed Internet-based instruction on HIV risk behaviors. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and paired t-test. After accessing the Internet-based instruction, the average score of HIV-prevention knowledge among the sample increased significantly, from 11.17 to 15.09 (maximum score of 20 points). The average score of practicing HIV prevention among the sample increased significantly, from 62.94 to 76.51 (maximum score of 99 points). This study demonstrated that Internet-based instruction was effective in improving HIV-prevention knowledge and practices among men who have sex with men. This suggests that Internet-based instruction could be developed for use in other countries and evaluated in a similar way. © 2014 Wiley Publishing Asia Pty Ltd.
An ethnographic study of diabetes health beliefs and practices in Sri Lankan adults

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ABSTRACT

Background: Globally, type 2 diabetes is increasingly prevalent; however, unique cultural contexts in each country might affect these diabetes control behaviours. Diabetes is a serious health issue in Sri Lanka and little is known about the impact of sociocultural context on diabetes health behaviours. Aim: This first-time qualitative Sri Lankan study explored the health beliefs and practices of adults with diabetes to enhance current nursing care and medical treatment. Methods: An ethnographic approach was used to collect data through participant observations, in-depth interviews with 14 key informants in their homes and field notes. Data were analysed by thematic analysis. Results: Findings revealed unique, informative insights into sociocultural worlds of the participants from three Sinhalese, Tamils and Moor ethnic groups. Findings are described under five themes: gaining religious support, changing food habits is a struggle, exercising is challenging, Western medicine causes long-term consequences and Ayurveda/traditional treatments can cure. Conclusion: In Sri Lankans, the impact of sociocultural context on glycaemic control behaviours is significant and should be taken in consideration when health professionals provide care, treatment and health education. Limitations: Study informants were selected from three ethnic groups and just two communities. Further in-depth research is required using both qualitative and quantitative approaches in individual groups. Implications for Nursing and Health Policy: Culturally relevant policies and protocols for community care and treatment of people with diabetes are urgently required in Sri Lanka to enhance cultural treatment and care and reduce the epidemic of diabetes. These policies need to take into account traditional beliefs and practices of various ethnic groups. © 2014 International Council of Nurses.
Strategies to promote adherence to treatment by pulmonary tuberculosis patients: A systematic review

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The objective of this study is to review and synthesise the best available research evidence that investigates the effectiveness of strategies to promote adherence to treatment by patients with newly diagnosed pulmonary tuberculosis (TB).

Methods: The search sought to find published and unpublished studies. The search covered articles published from 2010 in English and Thai. The database search included Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), EMBASE, Cochrane Library, PubMed, Science Direct, Current Content Connect, Thai Nursing Research Database, Thai thesis database, Digital Library of Thailand Research Fund, Research of National Research Council of Thailand and Database of Office of Higher Education Commission. Studies were additionally identified from reference lists of all studies retrieved. Eligible studies were randomised controlled trials that explored different strategies to promote adherence to TB treatment of patients with newly diagnosed pulmonary TB and also included quasiexperimental studies. Two of the investigators independently assessed the studies and then extracted and summarised data from eligible studies. extracted data were entered into Review Manager software and analysed. Results: A total of 7972 newly diagnosed pulmonary TB patients participated in 10 randomised controlled trials and eight quasiexperimental studies. The studies reported on the effectiveness of a number of specific interventions to improve adherence to TB treatment among newly diagnosed pulmonary TB patients. These interventions included directly observed treatment (DOT) coupled with alternative patient supervision options, case management with DOT, short-course directly observed treatment, the intensive triad-model programme and an intervention package aimed at improved counselling and communication, decentralisation of treatment, patient choice of a DOT supporter and reinforcement of supervision activities. Conclusion: This review found evidence of beneficial effects from the DOT with regard to the medication adherence among TB patients in terms of cure rate and success rate. However, no beneficial effect was found from DOT intervention with increasing completion rate. In addition, the combined interventions to improve adherence to tuberculosis treatment included case management with directly observed treatment short-course program, the intensive triad-model programme and intervention package. These interventions should be implemented by healthcare providers and tailored to local contexts and circumstances, wherever appropriate. © 2014 University of Adelaide, Joanna Briggs Institute.
Strengthening Nursing Education in Three Southeast Asian Countries Program (SNESEA): A model for addressing the nursing shortage on a regional level

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ABSTRACT

[No abstract available]
Assessing and exploring the competency of prehospital emergency medical service personnel in Klang Valley, Malaysia: A mixed method approach

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The notion of competency in pre-hospital emergency medical service (EMS) personnel is mainly focused on the professional proficiency that he/she has to provide intervention outside of hospital setting. Consequently, the effectiveness of pre-hospital EMS performance very much depends upon the capability of the personnel at the scene and as well during transport to the definitive care center. The aim of this study is to appraise and explore the competency of pre-hospital care staff and provide strategies for improvement. Methods: A mixed method approach combining the qualitative and quantitative study design. Of 134 staffs only 111(82.84%) returned the questionnaire. Nine semi-structured interviews and two focus group discussions were performed. The main informants were nurses/assistant medical officers, nurse/assistant medical officer administrators, and emergency physicians. Results: From the quantitative finding on the competency of staff handling pre-hospital EMS, all had the essential knowledge and skills. However, most of them reported not having good knowledge and skills for invasive procedures (31%-61%), include giving medications (61%-66%). The qualitative information provided insight about the issues and strategies for the personnel in regards to competency. All the relevant qualitative data were merged into 5 categories relating issues and 5 categories to strategies that could affect the competency of the personnel. Conclusion: Pre-hospital EMS systems need to consider that the competency of pre-hospital EMS personnel has to come along with the responsible attitude of the staff itself, the support of medical direction, clear protocol for guiding them whenever needed, and continuous professional-development courses require them to maintain their professional proficiency.
Brief cognitive behavioral therapy for depression among patients with alcohol dependence in Thailand

Thapinta D., Skulphan S., Kittrattanapaiboon P., Thapinta, D.,

ABSTRACT

This study evaluated the short-term efficacy of brief cognitive behavioral therapy for reducing depression among Thai general hospital patients with alcohol dependence. A quasi-experimental design was used with a control group and pretest, posttest, and follow-up assessments. Participants were patients with alcohol dependence and depression who were recruited from district and provincial hospitals in northern Thailand. Eighty (N = 80) eligible participants were purposively selected and enrolled, and then randomly assigned into two groups. One group received three weeks of brief six-session cognitive behavioral therapy as the intervention, and the other group received usual care as their treatment. Data were collected at Week 0 (pretest), Week 3 (posttest), and Week 7 (one month follow-up) and included a nine-item depression scale, with analysis through descriptive statistics and t-test. Findings indicated that the mean depression scores decreased significantly (p
Verifying quantitative stigma and medication adherence scales using qualitative methods among thai youth living with HIV/AIDS

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ABSTRACT

HIV/AIDS-related stigma has been linked to poor adherence resulting in drug resistance and the failure to control HIV. This study used both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine stigma and its relationship to adherence in 30 HIV-infected Thai youth aged 14 to 21 years. Stigma was measured using the HIV stigma scale and its 4 subscales, and adherence was measured using a visual analog scale. Stigma and adherence were also examined by in-depth interviews. The interviews were to determine whether verbal responses would match the scale's results. The mean score of stigma perception from the overall scale and its 4 subscales ranged from 2.14 to 2.45 on a scale of 1 to 4, indicating moderate levels of stigma. The mean adherence score was .74. The stigma scale and its subscales did not correlate with the adherence. Totally, 17 of the respondents were interviewed. Contrary to the quantitative results, the interviewees reported that the stigma led to poor adherence because the fear of disclosure often caused them to miss medication doses. The differences between the quantitative and the qualitative results highlight the importance of validating psychometric scales when they are translated and used in other cultures. © The Author(s) 2013.

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Effectiveness of an alcohol relapse prevention program based on the satir model in alcohol-dependent women

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of an alcohol relapse prevention program based on the Satir Model on self-esteem, self-efficacy, life congruence and drinking behaviors by measuring heavy drinking days, abstinence days and levels of serum gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT) in alcohol-dependent women. A randomized controlled trial was designed. Thirty-nine alcohol-dependent women hospitalized at either Suan Prung Psychiatric Hospital or Thanyarak Chiangmai Hospital, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, were randomly assigned into an experimental group of 18 women or a control group of 21 women. Results revealed that immediately following, and at 12 and 16 weeks after completing the alcohol relapse prevention program, participants in the experimental group demonstrated statistically significant increased self-esteem, self-efficacy and life congruence; increased abstinence days; and decreased heavy drinking days compared to the control group. In addition, at 16 weeks after completing the program, the experimental group had statistically significant lower levels of serum GGT than the control group. The alcohol relapse prevention program based on the Satir Model improved psychological health and prevented alcohol relapse among alcohol-dependent women.

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Prognostic factors for small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the uterine cervix: An institutional experience

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aimed to determine the clinicopathologic characteristics that affected the survival in patients with small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the uterine cervix (SNEC). Materials and Methods: All patients with SNEC treated at Chiang Mai University Hospital between January 1995 and October 2011 were retrospectively reviewed with histologic confirmation of SNEC diagnosis. The prognostic predictors for survival were assessed using competing risk regression analysis concerning the probabilities of competing events. Results: One hundred thirty histologically confirmed patients with SNEC met the study criteria. The median overall survival and median cancer-specific survival (CSS) for entire group were 47.8 and 58.1 months, respectively. Five-year CSS for patients with early-stage disease was 62.6% and for patients with advanced-stage disease was 18.1% (P...
Community health nurses' HIV health promotion and education programmes: A qualitative study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Globally, nurses practice in many settings with people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), taking an increasing share of the professional burden of care and helping to reduce morbidity and mortality. International literature is sparse about Thai community nurses providing primary healthcare programmes for people with HIV. Aim: This study aimed to describe background, experiences and strategies of community nurses regarding their design and delivery of programmes for people living with HIV and AIDS in Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. Design: This study used a qualitative mixed-methods study employing a qualitative survey and in-depth interviews. Methods: Twenty community health nurses from 18 small community hospitals completed a survey comprising demographic data and 13 open-ended questions. Four of them later engaged in in-depth interviews using the same questions. Survey, interview data and field notes were analysed using interpretive content analysis. Findings: Four themes and six sub-themes portrayed participants' rich experiences and knowledge of HIV health promotion and education; challenges of daily work, discrimination and ethical issues; success through programme diversity comprising promotion of community volunteerism, networking and relationships; and holistic connections with Thai cultural traditions and Buddhism. Conclusions and implications for practice: Findings help to recognize the diversity, uniqueness and contributions of Thai community nurses regarding culturally appropriate health promotion and education programmes for people living with HIV and AIDS. Findings inform nurses and health officials in and outside of the country to complement innovation in future HIV health promotion and education programmes. Limitations: Our sample came from one province of Thailand. Findings might not be reflective of nurses elsewhere. Implications for health and nursing policy: Three decades of collective experience in providing holistic and multifaceted HIV and AIDS nursing care, education and health promotion by community health nurses have the potential to effect new and existing policies and protocols on HIV community care in Thailand, but more research is required for this. © 2014 International Council of Nurses.
Parenting-Skills Program for HIV Prevention Among Thai Early Adolescents

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ABSTRACT

[No abstract available]
The effectiveness of family interventions on psychological distress and expressed emotion in family members of individuals diagnosed with first-episode psychosis: A systematic review protocol

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ABSTRACT

Review question/objective The overall objective of this review is to examine the effectiveness of family interventions (i.e. education, psychoeducation, communication and coping skills training, problem-solving training and cognitive-behavioral therapy) for family members of persons with first-episode psychosis. The specific review question to be addressed is: What interventions are the most effective in impacting on family members' psychological distress and expressed emotion? Inclusion criteria Types of participants This review will consider studies that target family members of individuals diagnosed with FEP aged 15-30 years. An individual with FEP is defined as a person who presents for the first time with psychotic features to an emergency department, psychiatric hospital or psychiatric outpatients' department and is diagnosed according to criteria based on the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Third Edition Revised (DSM-III-R), the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fourth Edition (DSM-IV), the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fourth Edition Text Revision (DSM-IV TR), or the World Health Organization's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10). Studies investigating caregivers or siblings of those with schizophrenia spectrum disorders, including schizophrenia, schizophreniform disorders and undifferentiated schizophrenia, who have experienced symptoms for no more than two years, will also be included. Studies focusing on caregivers or siblings of persons with affective psychosis or affective disorders will be excluded because this group are different in terms of treatment and interventions. Types of intervention(s)/phenomena of interest For the purpose of this review, a family intervention is defined as relevant education, psychoeducation, communication and coping skills training, problem-solving skills training and CBT provided to family members who care for a person with FEP. These interventions will be compared with usual care such as receiving medical treatment and advice from clinicians and nurses. Types of outcomes The review will consider studies that measure outcomes related to psychological distress and expressed emotion of family caregivers of individuals with FEP. This includes but is not restricted to: 1. Appraisal and attitudes toward individual with FEP, i.e., self-report, attitude score TRUNCATED AT 350 WORDS.
Developing a workplace breast feeding support model for employed lactating mothers

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ABSTRACT

Resuming work is often considered an obstacle for continued breast feeding. The objectives of this participatory action research study were to develop a breast feeding support model in the workplace and to compare breast feeding rates before and after implementation of the breast feeding support campaign. Twenty-four women participated before the implementation of the breast feeding support campaign, whereas 31 women participated after the campaign. Data were collected by interviewing employed women about their breast feeding practices within six months post partum. Additional data were collected through interviews with the workplace administrator and head of work sections as well as observation of the breast feeding support campaigns. Qualitative data were analysed using thematic analysis, whereas quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics and χ2 test. The workplace breast feeding support model was developed based on the concept of Mother-Friendly Workplace Initiatives by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) and the Thai government's promotion of a workplace breast feeding corner. Within this model, a committee for breast feeding support was created for working with the research team to develop breast feeding activities and media for breast feeding education and breast feeding support campaigns in the workplace. Breast feeding rates at six months after implementation of the breast feeding support campaign were significantly higher than rates before, both for exclusive breast feeding and any breast feeding at levels .004 and .033, respectively. These results suggest that breast feeding should be encouraged in every workplace depending on context. Individual advice and help for employed mothers should be provided from pregnancy through weaning in the postpartum period. © 2014 Elsevier Ltd.
Combined therapy of iron chelator and antioxidant completely restores brain dysfunction induced by iron toxicity

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ABSTRACT

Background: Excessive iron accumulation leads to iron toxicity in the brain; however the underlying mechanism is unclear. We investigated the effects of iron overload induced by high iron-diet consumption on brain mitochondrial function, brain synaptic plasticity and learning and memory. Iron chelator (deferiprone) and antioxidant (n-acetyl cysteine) effects on iron overload brains were also studied. Methodology: Male Wistar rats were fed either normal diet or high iron-diet consumption for 12 weeks, after which rats in each diet group were treated with vehicle or deferiprone (50 mg/kg) or n-acetyl cysteine (100 mg/kg) or both for another 4 weeks. High iron-diet consumption caused brain iron accumulation, brain mitochondrial dysfunction, impaired brain synaptic plasticity and cognition, blood-brain-barrier breakdown, and brain apoptosis. Although both iron chelator and antioxidant attenuated these deleterious effects, combined therapy provided more robust results. Conclusion: In conclusion, this is the first study demonstrating that combined iron chelator and anti-oxidant therapy completely restored brain function impaired by iron overload. © 2014 Sripetchwandee et al.
DPP-4 Inhibitor and PPAR? Agonist Restore the Loss of CA1 Dendritic Spines in Obese Insulin-resistant Rats

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ABSTRACT

Background and Aims: Obesity induced by high-fat diet (HFD) impaired brain insulin receptor function, caused cognitive decline as well as reduced dendritic spine density. Previous studies suggested that dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPP-4) inhibitor and peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-gamma (PPAR?) agonist exerted the neuroprotective effects in obese insulin-resistant rats. However, the effects of these drugs on dendritic spines in obese insulin-resistant rats have not yet been investigated. In the present study, we determined the effects of DPP-4 inhibitor and PPAR? agonist on dendritic spines density of obese insulin-resistant rats caused by HFD. Methods: Male Wistar Rats were divided into two groups. Animals in each group were fed with normal diet (ND) or HFD for 12weeks. After then, rats in each group were subdivided into three subgroups to receive either vehicle or vildagliptin (3mg/kg/day) or pioglitazone (10mg/kg/day) for 3-4weeks. At the end of the experiment, the metabolic parameters and density of dendritic spines in CA1 hippocampus were determined. Results: We found that HFD-fed rats caused peripheral insulin resistance as well as the reduction of the density of dendritic spines in CA1 hippocampus. Treatment with both DPP-4 inhibitor and PPAR? agonist in HFD-fed rats improved insulin sensitivity as well as increased the number of dendritic spines in CA1 hippocampus. Moreover, both drugs have equally improved this deterioration. Conclusion: Our findings indicate that DPP-4 inhibitor and PPAR? agonist restored the reduction of dendritic spines caused by HFD, suggesting the beneficial roles of DPP-4 inhibitors and PPAR? agonists in neurodegenerative disorders. © 2014 IMSS.
Do Thai parents discuss sex and AIDS with young adolescents?
A qualitative study

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative study explored parents' and young adolescents' perceptions of communication related to sex and HIV/AIDS. Focus group discussions and group discussion were conducted among 67 adolescents and 30 parents. For the adolescents, group discussion using participatory activities was conducted, followed by five focus group discussions. Group discussions using participatory activities were conducted among parents. Thematic analysis indicated that the adolescents received inadequate information about sex and AIDS from their parents, whom they feared as providing negative judgment, and this represented a key barrier to such discussions. Their parents, on the other hand, reported that they believed their children were still too young to learn about and engage in sexual activities. The parents perceived barriers to communication included a lack of confidence and feelings of embarrassment. Nevertheless, they also recognized their important role in their child's sexual education. Collectively, these results draw attention to the need for a culturally appropriate program to strengthen parent-child communication skills for the topics of sex and HIV/AIDS. © 2013 Wiley Publishing Asia Pty Ltd.
Status of nosocomial tuberculosis transmission prevention in hospitals in Thailand

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ABSTRACT

A national survey was conducted during July to September 2009 to determine tuberculosis (TB) prevention activities, problems, and support needed of Thai hospitals. Ninety-seven percent of hospitals established TB isolation policy, 96.3% provided guidelines for caring of TB patients, 95% and 91.8% provided prevention of TB transmission and environmental management guideline, and 92.6% established screening system for TB in the outpatient department (OPD). A half of hospitals had problems with isolation rooms and difficulties in screening TB cases in the OPD. Support needed included consultation on structure and ventilation systems, personnel training, national TB prevention, and TB screening guideline. Strengthening TB prevention activities, providing expert consultation, and national guidelines may help hospitals improve their TB prevention activities. Copyright © 2014 Published by Elsevier Inc.
Moving towards the greater involvement of nurses in policy development

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ABSTRACT

[No abstract available]
Histological type-specific prognostic factors of cervical small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, and squamous cell carcinoma

12Intaraphet S., 3Kasatpibal N., 4Søgaard M., 5Khunamornpong S., 6Patumanond J., 7Chandacham A., 8Chitapanarux I., 4Siriaunkgul S., 9Siriaunkgul, S.,

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ABSTRACT

Background: The study aimed to determine the prognostic impact of clinical and pathological factors on survival among patients with small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma (SNEC), adenocarcinoma (ADC), and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Methods: Eligible participants were all patients with histologically confirmed cervical cancer treated at Chiang Mai University Hospital between 1995 and 2011. We included all patients with SNEC and randomly enrolled patients with ADC and SCC. We used competing-risk regression analysis to examine the risk of cancer-related death by histological type. Results: We included 130 (6.2%) women with SNEC, 346 (16.4%) with ADC, and 1,632 (77.4%) with SCC. Age>60 years (hazard ratio [HR] 4.9, 95% confidence interval [CI] 2.0-12.0) and lymph node involvement (HR 3.0, 95% CI 1.2-7.4) were prognostic factors among surgically-treated patients with SNEC. Deeper stromal invasion (HR 3.6, 95% CI 1.6-8.3) was a prognostic factor in patients with SCC. In patients with advanced SNEC, age>60 years had a strong prognostic impact (HR 2.6, 95% CI 1.0-6.5) while the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics stages III and IV were prognostic factors for patients with advanced stage ADC (HR 2.9, 95% CI 2.0-4.4 and HR 4.5, 95% CI 2.6-7.9, respectively) and SCC (HR 1.7, 95% CI 1.4-2.0 and HR 3.7, 95% CI 2.8-4.9, respectively) compared with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics stage IIB. Conclusion: Clinical and pathological prognostic factors in cervical cancer differed according to histological type. Taking the important prognostic factors for each histological type into consideration may be beneficial for tailored treatment and follow-up planning. © 2014 Intaraphet et al.
Effect of acetylsalicylic acid on thalassemia with pulmonary arterial hypertension

Chueamuangphan N., Wongtheptian W., Patumanond J., Sukonthasarn A., Chuncharunee S., Tawichasri C., Nawarawong W., Chueamuangphan, N.,

ABSTRACT

Objective: To compare pulmonary artery systolic pressure (PASP) between thalassemic patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) for whom acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) was and was not prescribed after 1 year. Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted at the hematological outpatient clinic at Chiang Rai Hospital, Chiang Rai, Thailand. All new cases of thalassemia with PAH from January 2007 to January 2012 were studied at the first month and at 12 months. The patients were classified into two groups. In one group, ASA 81 mg daily was prescribed for 1 year, whereas in another group no ASA was prescribed, due to its contraindications, which included bleeding, gastrointestinal side effects, and thrombocytopenia. PASP, estimated by a Doppler echocardiography, was measured by the same cardiologist. Propensity score adjustment was used to control confounding variables by indication and contraindication. Multivariable regression analysis was used to evaluate the effects of ASA. Results: Of the 63 thalassemia patients with PAH, there were 47 (74.6%) in the ASA group and 16 (25.4%) in the no ASA group. ASA, as compared with no ASA, did not significantly reduce PASP (adjusted difference -0.95; 95% confidence interval -15.10 to 15.01; P=0.906). Conclusion: Low-dose ASA may not have a beneficial effect on PASP after 1 year of treatment of PAH in thalassemia. © 2014 Chueamuangphan et al.