

Title : The Effect of Pharmacist's Counseling Activities on Knowledge About Antiretroviral Therapy Among HIV/AIDS Patients: The Case of Government Pharmaceutical Organization Drugstore, Rangsit Branch

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Abstract

Objective

To compare the level of knowledge about antiretroviral therapy among HIV/AIDS patients before and after a community pharmacist's consultation.

Methodology

This quasi experimental study was conducted during January and March 2005. The sample was selected by means of purposive sampling from HIV/AIDS patients who visited The Government Pharmaceutical Organization Drugstore Rangsit Branch. The instruments used in this study were: (1) The Fact Sheet "what patients should know about antiretroviral therapy," and (2) a questionnaire assessing the knowledge about antiretroviral therapy before and after counseling. In addition, a handout and a flipchart were utilized as an aid in counseling sessions. The patients' satisfaction was gathered by means of a self-administered questionnaire. The data were analyzed by descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) and analytical statistics (paired sample t test). The level of significance was set at 0.05.

The Results

A total of 30 HIV/AIDS patients volunteered to be participated in this study. Among these, 18 were male and 12 were female. The majority (59.9%) of contacted HIV by sexual transmission. The mean total knowledge scores before consultation was 13.4 ± 4.9 . The highest three subtopics that received the highest scores were: self-care, goals of the treatment, and general knowledge about HIV infection. After consultation, the mean total score increased to 20.6 ± 1.9 , showing a statistically significant difference at

$p < 0.05$. In addition, the degree of satisfaction among volunteers appeared to be high (93.3% of the volunteers rated high or highest degree of satisfaction). Thus, we concluded that pharmacist's counseling could lead to a significant improvement in patients' knowledge about antiretroviral therapy. The study could be considered as a model to expand the roles of community pharmacists' in the area of HIV/AIDS counseling.