SUMMARY

Specimens collected from males and females at the Venereal Disease Centre of Chiang Mai were tested by the direct microscopy, the fluorescent antibody method (the FA method) and the cultural method.

Six hundred and three males with suspected gonorrheal urethritis were studies. Gonococci were detected in 39.6 per cent of the cases by direct microscopy, 29.4 per cent by direct FA, 50.6 per cent by delayed FA method, and 44.1 per cent by plate culture.

Two hundred and eighty two females with suspected gonorrheal infection, were tested similarly. Gonococci were detected in 9.6 per cent of the cases by direct microscopy, in 3.2 per cent by direct FA, in 15.2 per cent by delayed FA, and in 12.3 per cent by cultural method. The advantages and disadvantages of the different methods with regard to time and sensitivity are discussed.

This study indicated the prevalence of Neisseria gonorrhea in Chiang Mai, was greatest in ages between 20-24 years in males and 15-19 years in females. The incidence of gonorrhea in males was equally high in students, labourers, merchants, officials. In females, the highest incidence was among prostitutes.

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