

**ASSESSMENT OF PAIN IN CHILDREN WITH HIV/AIDS,
A PILOT STUDY (WITH EMPHASIS ON PAIN SCALES)**

CHRISTOPHER JOHN NEWMAN

**A THEMATIC PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE
(TROPICAL PEDIATRICS)
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY
2003**

**ISBN 974-04-2910-6
COPYRIGHT OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

ASSESSMENT OF PAIN IN CHILDREN WITH HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS / ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME, A PILOT STUDY (WITH EMPHASIS ON PAIN SCALES).

CHRISTOPHER JOHN NEWMAN 4538026 TMCT/M

M.C.T.M. (Trop Ped)

**THEMATIC PAPER ADVISORS : PORNTHEP CHANTHAVANICH, M.D.,
CHUKIAT SIRIVICHAYAKUL, M.D., RANGSIMA LOLEKHA, M.D.,
PHANORSRI ATTANATH, M. Sc., KRIENGSACK LIMKITTIKUL, M.D.**

ABSTRACT

Children with human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome are believed to experience a significant amount of pain. This may significantly interfere with their quality of life. The prevalence and characteristics of pain were investigated in a group of Thai children with human immunodeficiency virus infection.

We developed a child and a caregiver questionnaire to determine the overall occurrence, the characteristics and the impact of pain. Three commonly used pain scales, the visual analogue scale, the Wong-Baker Faces Pain Scale, and the Faces Pain Scale revised were administered alongside the child questionnaire. We interviewed 61 patients attending the Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health (Children's Hospital) human immunodeficiency virus clinic and an equal number of age-matched, healthy children with their caregivers.

Forty-four percent of the human immunodeficiency virus infected children reported significant pain compared to 13 percent of the healthy children ($P < .01$). Seven percent of the infected children experienced chronic pain. Children in human immunodeficiency virus disease stages B and C reported more pain than the children in stages N and A ($P = 0.02$). Wasted children tended to report more pain. Pain in infected children tended to be in the abdomen, lower limbs or head. Only 44 percent of the infected children experiencing pain received analgesic medication. Only 44 percent of them were successfully relieved of their pain by medication or other pain relief techniques. The results of the 3 pain scales were significantly correlated. The intensity of pain was significantly higher in infected children than in uninfected children.

Pain is a common experience in human immunodeficiency virus infected children and can adversely impact on their quality of life. Pain is insufficiently taken into account and treated in these patients. Therefore, adequate pain identification, assessment and management should be systematically considered in their routine care.

KEY WORDS : HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS / PAIN / CHILD

75 P. ISBN 974-04-2910-6