

**TB PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR OF PATIENTS CONSULTING AT  
THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT AT  
PAHOLPOLPAYUHASANA HOSPITAL, KANCHANABURI  
PROVINCE, THAILAND**



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### ABSTRACT

This study was descriptive research examining TB preventive behaviors among OPD patients in Paholpolpayuhasana hospital, Kanchanaburi province, Thailand. Socio-demographic and economic factors, TB knowledge, perception on TB, and accessibility to TB information were all investigated. Data were obtained from 225 OPD patients by self-administered questionnaire. All OPD patients aged from 15 and above with inclusion criteria were included in the study.

The results showed that overall preventive behaviors of OPD patients were at a good level of 25.78%. There were significant associations between education, occupation, TB knowledge, perception on tuberculosis, and accessibility to TB information with TB preventive behavior. There were also significantly associated links between TB preventive behavior and two groups of significant persons who provide TB information to the OPD patients, public health officers and friends. This demonstrates that public health officers are still the main source for providing effective TB information. There was no association between VHVs (Village Health Volunteers), who are the community activists in primary health care, and TB preventive behavior.

Even though there were strong associations between knowledge, perception, and accessibility to TB information, accessibility to TB information was still low (54.67%). Therefore, it is recommended that to improve the TB preventive behavior, we need to improve accessibility to TB information which could lead to an increase in the level of knowledge on tuberculosis. The hospital should provide information through brochures or posters, or educate the patients to be more aware of TB using appropriate mass media. Capacity building through development of VHVs should strengthen knowledge on TB and help them be involved in TB control.

KEY WORDS: TB PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR / TUBERCULOSIS / OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT PATIENTS.

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