

Study Reports:

1. Title: Prevalence and distribution of histoplasmin hypersensitivity among Thai nationals.

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The percentage of histoplasmin sensitivity, as determined by skin test among lifetime residents of a given area, is an index of the exposure rate that can be anticipated if non-resident personnel move into the area. For this reason, Korat (Nakorn Rajasima) was selected as the first area to survey. Lt. Col. G. Hennard, Surgeon, 9th Logistical Command, assisted in the establishment of contacts and on 15, 16 and 17 November data were obtained on 610 adult Thais (501 males; 76 females). Overall percentage of histoplasmin reactors was found to be 5.40 (5.82% males; 2.56% females). These data indicate a few new clinical cases should occur each year in the province.

The second area surveyed was Chiangmai province in north Thailand. Drs. Kampol Panas-Ampol, Acting Head of the Department of Microbiology at the Chiangmai Medical School, and Leon Le Beau, University of Illinois advisor to the Department of Microbiology, made the arrangements to do skin tests in the school system. On 13-16 December, a total of 760 (496 males; 218 females) young adults (14 to 20 years of age) were tested. The overall percentage of reactors was found to be 3.94 (3.62% males; 4.54% females). There is a discrepancy in the data obtained from one of the boys' schools which indicates either a number of positive reactors did not return for the reading of the test or the boys in this school come from a different environmental situation. The first alternative is being checked by retesting all absentees on the day the test were read. If this fails to provide a solution, further investigations into the epidemiological aspects will be undertaken.

Further surveys are planned in the provinces of Ubol(East), Udorn (North-East) and Songkhla(South) to provide information from the different geographic regions of Thailand. Arrangements are being made with local officials to test in Udorn during the week of 4 April, and in Ubol in the near future.