

## Gonorrhea in Asymptomatic Females

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**OBJECTIVE:** To demonstrate clinical gonorrheal infections in asymptomatic Thai females.

**BACKGROUND:** While it has been demonstrated in several Western clinics that up to 8% of females seen at routine hospital visits harbour *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections, no such survey has ever been conducted in Thailand. Our study was designed to observe this incidence.

Women from 20 years of age to 50 years of age were seen at Women's Hospital, Bangkok, and at the Thai Army Hospital, Bangkok. These patients were seen for routine Papanicolaou smears and for OB-GYN complaints other than cervicitis. Routine cervical cultures on prewarmed Thayer-Martin chocolate agar and on blood agar were made. Plates were immediately placed in CO<sub>2</sub> (candle) jars and incubated at 35-37°C within one hour. All plates were examined at SMRL the next day and routine identification procedures for *N. gonorrhoeae* were conducted.

**RESULTS:** One hundred sixty-four patients seen at Women's Hospital were examined and seven (4.2%) were found to be infected with *N. gonorrhoeae*. Table 1 presents this data by age group. Of 141 patients (military dependents) seen at the Thai Army Hospital, five (3.5%) were found to be infected.

**DISCUSSION:** This survey has brought to the attention of the investigators the need for routine *N. gonorrhoeae* cultures in asymptomatic females.

Table 1.  
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Women's Hospital  
Bangkok, Thailand

No. of Patients	Age (yrs.)	Positive Cultures
35	20 - 30	5
79	31 - 40	2
50	41 - 50	0

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