

An Epidemiological Survey of Males with Urethritis
Attending a Military V. D. Clinic in Thailand

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OBJECTIVE: To review data obtained from an informal questionnaire of male patients with a urethral discharge and to correlate this information with their smear and culture results.

BACKGROUND: A Venereal Disease Workshop (SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, June 1974) revealed an increasing frequency of venereal disease among American military forces in Thailand. Little is known of factors influencing this increase. It is the purpose of this study to determine if the sexual and social habits of patients correlate with their smear and culture results.

DESCRIPTION: Data from 139 males presenting to the U. S. Army Dispensary, Camp Samaesan, Thailand, were studied. An informal questionnaire was verbally administered to each patient by a technician.

For all patients a smear of the urethral discharge was prepared, Gram stained and microscopically examined for the presence of Gram negative intracellular and extracellular diplococci morphologically resembling *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. A culture was obtained by introducing a calcium alginate nasopharyngeal swab into the anterior urethra. Appropriate media were streaked for the isolation of anaerobes, aerobes and *N. gonorrhoeae*.

PROGRESS: The information obtained by questionnaire is currently being correlated with the laboratory results.