# การสำรวจความชุกของแพลแอพทัสในช่องปากโดยการรายงาน จากผู้ป่วยเด็กไทย อายุ 12-18 ปี ณ โรงเรียนสาธิตแห่ง มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ ประสานมิตร

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### บทคัดย่อ

แผลแอพทัสจัดว่าเป็นปัญหารอยโรคในช่องปากที่พบได้บ่อย โดยมีผลต่อเยื่อบุภายในช่องปากชนิด ไม่สร้างเคอราทิน ชนิดของแผลแอพทัสแบ่งได้เป็น 3 แบบ คือแผลแอพทัสขนาดเล็ก แผลแอพทัสขนาดใหญ่ และแผลแอพทัสแบบคล้ายการติดเชื้อเริ่ม สาเหตุที่แท้จริงของการเกิดรอยโรคนี้ยังไม่ทราบแน่ชัด แต่รอยโรคนี้ สามารถจัดอยู่ในกลุ่มของโรคที่สร้างภูมิต้านทานตนเอง วัตถุประสงค์ของการศึกษานี้เพื่อสำรวจข้อมูลเรื่องการรับรู้ ในการเกิดแผลแอพทัสภายในช่องปากของกลุ่มเด็กนักเรียนไทย โรงเรียนสาธิตแห่งมหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ ประสานมิตร ช่วงอายุ 12-18 ปี ข้อมูลเกี่ยวกับอุบัติการณ์การเกิดแผลแอพทัส ความถี่ และตำแหน่งของการ เกิดรอยโรคได้จากการสัมภาษณ์เก็บข้อมูลร่วมกับการตรวจในช่องปากของกลุ่มเด็กนักเรียนชั้นมัธยมศึกษาปีที่ 1 ถึง 6 ของโรงเรียนซึ่งเข้ารับการตรวจสุขภาพในช่องปากประจำปี ซึ่งได้รับการสนับสนุนจากคณะทันตแพทยศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ จากประชากรทั้งหมด 372 คน พบว่าเป็นเพศชาย 156 คน (ร้อยละ 41.9) และ เพศหญิง 216 คน (ร้อยละ 58.1) ช่วงอายุตั้งแต่ 12-18 ปี (อายุเฉลี่ย 14.5 ปี) ซึ่งร้อยละ 91 ของประชากรนั้น มีความถี่มากที่สุดในการเกิดแผลแอพทัสในช่องปากคือ 3 ครั้งต่อปี (ร้อยละ 16.2) โดยส่วนมากเป็นแบบแผลเดียว และตำแหน่งที่พบมากที่สุดคือที่เยื่อบุริมฝีปากล่างและร่องพับเนื้อเยื่อด้านในซ้ายและขวา (ร้อยละ 16.7) จาก การทดสอบทางสถิติด้วยวิธียาเทคอเร็คชันไคสแควร์ไม่พบความสัมพันธ์ของปัจจัยด้านเพศต่อการเกิดแผลแอพทัส ในช่องปาก (p = 0.176) การศึกษาครั้งนี้สรุปได้ว่าการเก็บข้อมูลเรื่องการเกิดแผลในช่องปากโดยให้ผู้ป่วยรายงาน ตนเองเป็นวิธีที่สะดวกและใช้เวลาไม่มากในการเก็บข้อมูลจากกลุ่มประชากรจำนวนมาก อย่างไรก็ตามอาจพบ ความคลาดเคลื่อนของข้อมูลได้บ้าง ซึ่งผลสำรวจที่ได้รับจากการศึกษานี้สามารถใช้เป็นข้อมูลเบื้องต้นสำหรับการ ศึกษาเรื่องความชุกของแผลในช่องปากในกลุ่มวัยรุ่นต่อไป

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# The Survey of Prevalence of Aphthous Oral Ulceration by Patient's Self Report in 12- to 18-Years Old Thai Students in Srinakharinwirot Prasarnmitr Demonstration School

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#### Abstract

Aphthous ulceration is one of the most common oral lesions affecting the non-keratinized epithelium of the oral cavity. There are three forms of aphthous ulceration; minor, major, and herpetic forms. The etiologies of this lesion are still unknown but it can be categorized in the group of the autoimmune diseases. The objective of the present study was to investigate the individual awareness of aphthous ulceration among Srinakharinwirot Prasarnmitr Demonstration School students who have age range from 12-18 years old. Three hundred and seventy two students of the school from Mattayom 1 to 6 were included in the survey. Each subject was individually interviewed during the annual oral examination supported by the Faculty of Dentistry, Srinakharinwirot University. Data related to the occurrence of aphthous ulceration, frequency, and location of the lesion were obtained and analyzed. There were 156 males (41.9%) and 216 females (58.1%), age ranged from 12-18 years (average age = 14.5 years) in the current investi gation. Ninety one percent of the subjects reported about experience of aphthous ulcerations in the oral cavity. The most frequency of the incidence of the lesion was 3 times per year (16.2%). The lesions mostly occurred solitarily with the major attacked site at left and right sides of lower labial and vestibular mucosa (16.7%). From Yate's correction Chi-square analysis, there was no relationship between gender factor and the occurrence of aphthous ulceration (p = 0.176). The present study showed that the survey of prevalence of aphthous oral ulceration by patient self report is practical and less time consuming for large population. However, quality of analysis may not be all valid. The current result can be used as the preliminary data for further study of aphthous ulceration in adolescence.

Keywords: Awareness, Aphthous ulceration, Thai children, Adolescent, Survey, Prevalence

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#### Introduction

Oral aphthous ulcers are one of the most common lesions in oral cavity. Etiological and predisposing factors of oral aphthous ulcerations include local traumatic injury, genetics, hormonal imbalance, oral autoimmune conditions, drugs, and systemic diseases [1,2]. There are three clinical manifestations of oral aphthous ulcers; minor, major, and herpetic forms [2]. The minor aphthous ulcer is the most common form that affects about 80% of patients. The lesions present as single or multiple, rounded or ovoid, shallow ulcers surrounding with red halo, which heal within 10 days. However, recurrent rate can also be found at the intervals of a few days or up to 2-3 months. Lesions can be found at the non-keratinized mucosal areas such as buccal mucosa, labial mucosa, floor of the month, or the tongue. The major aphthous ulcer affects about 10-15% of patients, with large area of lesion and requires longer duration to be healed. They can attack all sites of the oral cavity including the tonsil and oropharynx. The herpetic form ulceration is the least common form. The ulcers are small and multiple with the most affected sites being at the lateral margins of the tongue and floor of the mouth. They resemble to ulcers of primary herpes simplex virus infection [2].

The prevalence of oral aphthous ulcers ranges from 1-66% in adults and 1-40% in the children [3]. The peak onset of oral aphthous ulcers is during childhood, which tends to decrease in severity and frequency with age [2]. In the US

adult population study, those younger than 40 years of age had almost twice the prevalence of those older than 40 years [4]. The ulcer causes discomfort and pain in the area where it is located and the degrees of discomfort as complained by each individual vary largely, to which they may not correlate with the size, duration, or location of the ulcer. Experiences of oral pain during eating and communication tend to influence daily life [5]. The educational level, socio-economic background, and age of the individual play important roles in the patient's self assessment to seek healthcare. Women tend to pay more attention at health status than men do [5,6]. Gill and Scully [7] reported that nearly one-third of surveyed subjects admitted to a history of mouth ulceration with the vast majority first approach their general medical practitioner for advice. The self-recognition of oral ulceration may be the result of pain or discomfort as experienced by the person, or routine self-assessment of the oral cavity, and past experience with education from health care practitioners. To the authors' knowledges, there is, however, still no study mentioned about the awareness of oral aphthous ulceration as reported by Thai population. Our current investigation, therefore, aims to evaluation the pattern of self-awareness of oral aphthous ulceration among Thai adolescences from students in Srinakharinwirot Prasarnmitr Demonstration School.

#### Materials and methods

Data were collected from Mattayom 1 to 6 students of the Srinakharinwirot Prasarnmitr Demonstration School who came for their annual comprehensive oral examination. All students were oral examined and individually interviewed by pre-calibrated investigators (Oral Diagnosis and Oral Medicine staffs, Faculty of Dentistry, Srinakharinwirot University). All data were recorded and classified into age, gender, history of the aphthous ulceration found (yes or no), frequency of the lesion occurred during a year (1 to more than 12 times per year) and attacked sites of the ulceration (left and right sides of upper and lower labial mucosa and vestibular areas, central areas of labial mucosa and vestibular mucosa, floor of the mouth, or multiple areas). Those who admitted of having the ulcers related to trauma were excluded. All data were statistically analyzed by Chi-square test and the statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.

## Result

There were 156 males (41.9%) and 216 females (58.1%), age ranged from 12-18 years (average age =  $14.5\pm1.3$  years) included in the analysis. Ninety one percent of the subjects reported having a history of aphthous ulceration for which 16.2% of them reported having the lesion 3 times per year. Mostly, the lesion occurred solitarily with the major site attacked at left and right sides of lower labial and vestibular mucosa (16.7%) (Table 1).

Table 2 presents the numbers of subjects reported having a history of aphthous ulceration classified by gender. Eventhough males showed lower percentage of incidence of aphthous ulceration than female, from Yate's correction Chi-square analysis, however, there was no relationship between gender and aphthous ulceration (p = 0.176).

#### Discussion

The etiology of oral aphthous ulcerations is still arguable and could be multifactorial. Many previous studies showed that the causative factors are related to the hormonal level [8,9]. In the aspect of prevalence, adults younger than 40 years of age had almost twice the prevalence of aphthous ulceration than those older than 40 years [4]. In our present study, data were collected and focused on students from Mattayom 1 to 6 whose age range is between 12 to 18 years. This age range is related to a natural course of hormonal changes and thus the occurrence of aphthous ulceration might be related to the hormonal status in both sexes. Puberty is advanced by sex hormones and the pre-adolescence age tends to have the most hormonal level change which females may reach up the growth spurt age faster than males [10]. However, from our investigation, there was no difference in the history of aphthous ulceration among males and females. This profile of our sample group may be due to the limited numbers of the sample size of both genders.

Table 1. General information of the studied population which is classied into age, sex, history of the aphthous ulceration found, frequency of the lesion occurred during a year, and location of the ulceration.

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Age 12-18 yrs (mean 14.5 ± 1.3)	*	
Sex factor		
Male	156	41.9
Female	216	58.1
History of the aphthous ulceration found		
No	33	8.9
Yes	339	91.1
Frequency of the lesion occurred during a year		
1 time/year	40	11.8
2 times/year	52	15.3
3 times/year	55	16.2
4 times/year	34	10.0
5-8 times/year	48	14.2
9-12 times/year	45	13.3
>12 times/year	48	14.2
unknown	17	5.0
Location of the ulceration		
(1) L/R upper labial and vestibular mucosa	32	8.6
(2) L/R lower labial and vestibular mucosa	62	16.7
(3) central areas of labial and vestibular mucosa	31	8.3
(2) + (3)	18	4.8
(1) + (2) + (3)	7	1.9
invalid data	222	29.7

Table 2. Percentage of history of aphthous ulceration between males and females

Sex factor	No history of ulceration		Have history of ulceration	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Male	18	54.5	138	40.7
Female	15	45.5	201	59.3
Total	33	100	339	100

However, on closer inspection, males tended to present lower incidence of aphthous ulceration than female. This finding is in agreement with the result of previous study which showed the effect of gender on the prevalence of aphthous ulceration [11].

Another previous report showed the effect of hormonal imbalance on the stress level within a population and claimed that stress may be involved in the pathogenesis of the aphthous ulceration [12]. The selection of adolescence populations in this study was chosen to study the awareness of the aphthous ulceration because not only do they have the hormonal changes but also are in a great deal of emotional changes. This corresponds with many previous studies of mental rotation and cognitive changes with gender differences [13,14].

With regards to the frequency of aphthous ulceration occurred and attacked sites, lower labial and vestibular mucosa are the major site of attack which mostly found 3 times per year. This finding is also in agreement with previous study that reported the lower vestibule was the most commonly involved [3].

Currently, this investigation is the first study concerning awareness of aphthous ulceration among the adolescent Thai population. However, there are still some limitations of this study. The data were collected from a single population retrospectively based on the subjects' recollection of the incidence of aphthous ulceration. Therefore, quality of the data may not be all valid. Some of the subjects were not sure about the cause of the ulceration, whether it be from a traumatic nature or else. Some

subjects attempted to estimate the size of the ulcer, as well as the frequency of their ulceration. Nevertheless, this self-report survey is very basic, easy and convenient to obtain the data such as the incidence and prevalence in a large population with little time consuming. Further studies are necessary to obtain the conclusion regarding the awareness of adolescence of aphthous ulceration, e.g., the investigation among different population of various geographical areas, or the determination of educational background of each subject's family that might affect the awareness of the disease. Future findings of the aphthous ulceration data among Thai population would assist in the understanding of some predisposing factors of the disease, such as the environmental factor. and nutritional status. Lastly, it is of a significant value to promote the concept of self-recognition of oral diseases in Thai people and to seek proper care from a health practitioner at an early stage of the disease.

# Conclusion

The present study showed that the survey of prevalence of aphthous oral ulceration by patient's self report is practical and less time consuming in large population but the quality of all data may not be all valid. However, this present result can be used as the preliminary data for further study of aphthous ulceration in the adolescence.

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