

# LEASING AS AN ALTERNATIVE OPTION FOR GETTING MEDICAL INSTRUMENT IN MEDICAL LABORATORY: REPORT OF SITUATION IN THAILAND

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## ABSTRACT

Medical instrument is an important requirement for any medical laboratory. The instrument is needed for diagnostic activity in laboratory medicine. For the hospital in developing countries, the common problem is the difficulty in getting the medical instrument in laboratory. In this short article, the article discusses on the leasing which is an important alternative option for getting medical instrument in medical laboratory with special reference to the reports in Thailand.

**KEYWORDS:** Leasing, Medical, Instrument, Laboratory.

## INTRODUCTION

Medical instrument is an important requirement for any medical laboratory. The instrument is needed for diagnostic activity in laboratory medicine. For the hospital in developing countries, the common problem is the difficulty in getting the medical instrument in laboratory. In this short article, the article discusses on the leasing which is an important alternative option for getting medical instrument in medical laboratory with special reference to the reports in Thailand.

## HOW THE MEDICAL LABORATORY GET THE MEDICAL INSTRUMENT

In general the medical laboratory in any clinical center has to use the medical instrument. It is rarely that the clinical center or hospital can

produce the advanced medical instrument. Hence, the hospital has to get the medical instrument from the provider which is usually the medical diagnostic companies. To get the instrument, there are several ways. First, the hospital has to pay. This means the hospital has to buy the instrument from the companies. Second, the instrument is sometimes bought by the others or donated by the company. Third, the alternative option called leasing option might be used. This is common for the big medical center with high volume of diagnostic test per day. The medical diagnostic company might provide the instrument without charge to the medical laboratory but the laboratory has to sign the contact to by the reagent for the instrument to use in laboratory from the company.

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## REPORTS FROM THAILAND

Thailand is a developing country in Indochina. There are many medical laboratories in several hospitals. The leasing of medical instrumentation in medical laboratory can be seen and there are some interesting reports on this specific issue.

According to a questionnaire survey by Charuruks et al [1]. the leasing was common. Charuruks et al. also proposed that *“more concern must be given to the management of laboratory instruments and cooperation between hospitals could increase the efficiency of the instrument investment [1].”* Sirisali et al. studied the strategies that the Thai clinical laboratory used against economic crisis and found that *“A specific system “contact reagent with a free rent instrument” has been used widely (33.3%) [2].”*

For the question about the utility of the leasing option for medical instrument in Thailand, there is an interesting comparative study by Pingsuthiwong et al [3]. Pingsuthiwong et al. concluded that *“From the data, we concluded that the rental condition was favorable in big hospitals since reagent prices, maintenance costs, instrument models, and conditions were open for bargaining. However we believed that the efficiency of management remained the most important factor benefiting laboratory investment.” [3].* In fact, this report can be a good answer from developing country to a common question for the medical laboratory in selection appropriate strategies to get medical instrument [4]. Nevertheless, the problem in developing country might different from the developed rich country. In rich country, it is usually mentioned that *“why rent when you can buy? [5].”*

## CONCLUSION

There are some reports on leasing as an alternative option for getting medical instrument in medical laboratory: report of situation in Thailand. The situation analysis can reflect that the leasing option is still the good choice for any medical laboratory in poor developing country to cooperate with the medical diagnostic company.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None

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