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KEY WORD:

QUALITY OF LIFE/HEART TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

KATTIYA CHANPRADAB : QUALITY OF LIFE OF HEART TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

AT CHULALONGKORN HOSPITAL : CASE STUDIES. THESIS ADVISOR: ASSO. PROF.

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The purposes of this study were to examine quality of life and problem in daily living after heart transplantation. Samples were 10 heart transplantation recipients selected among those heart transplantation recipients who were attended the heart clinic of Chulalongkorn hospital. The instruments used in the study were composed of demographic data, the subjective quality of life evaluation form, the indepth interview guideline and the problem in daily living questionnaires. Data were analysed by arithmetic mean and standard deviation. Content analysis was used to analyse qualitative data. Results of the study showed that the majority of the studied cases had high mean score on quality of life. All studied cases reported better quality of life after transplantation. For the health and functioning domain, all studied cases found their health status had dramatic improvement after heart transplantation. There were some complications after heart transplantation including hypertension, hyperlipidemia, hypertrichosis, hypergingiva, heart rejection, acne and infection. All studied cases could work and took their family responsibilities as they did before their illness. Some studied cases felt tired during and after sexual activity and some decreased of sexual interest. For the nursing and treatment domain, all studied cases visited doctor every appointment. All studied cases complied with medical regimen and drugs. Some reported that they had a cold more often than before transplantation and most of them lacked of regular exercise. For the psychological and spiritual domain, all studied cases satisfied with their life. But there were some problems in moods. It was found that spouse, family member, friend, monk and faith in religion had been very supportive during their illness. For the socio-economic domain, some of the studied cases reported that the expenses of medical care and drugs was the major problem after transplantation. Some studied cases were supported by socialworker. For the family domain, all studied cases enjoyed their families. When considered the demographic data, it was found that marital status, educational level, employment, income and their province were correlated with quality of life. The problem in daily living, eight of the studied cases were at low level, while the other two cases were at moderate level.

Conclusion, all studied cases improved their quality of life after heart transplantation. The problem in daily living, eight of the studied cases were at low level, while the other two cases were at moderate level.

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