




THESIS TITLE : COPING BEHAVIORS OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN HAVING  
ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA  
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## ABSTRACT

This descriptive study examined the family members reaction in coping with the diagnosis as acute lymphoblastic leukemia, stressor and the stress coping behaviors of the families whose children were having acute lymphoblastic leukemia. A conceptual framework in the study was based on the McCubbin and McCubbin's theory of the family stress. The study sample consisted of 68 fathers or mothers whose children had acute lymphoblastic leukemia and received treatment at Srinagarind and Khon Kaen hospitals from November 1993 to April 1994. Tools for collecting data included interview forms for collecting data on coping behaviors of the families. These interview forms was developed from McCubbin and others's theory on

family stress After the completion of the development of the interview forms, they were tested for validity by 8 experts. The collected data were analyzed by percentile and content analysis.

### Findings:

The analysis of the data revealed that when firstly hearing the diagnosis of their children, 70.59% of the families got shocked, 47.06% regretted, 44.12% disbelieved, 16.18% made an accusation 12.50% denied the medical diagnosis, 5.88% felt guilty, and 2.94% became angry. The data disclosed that the family members' stress was created by such several factors as sickness of their children economic problem growth and development problem of their children their children's schooling problem parents' jobs and the relationship problem of husbands and wives. When facing the sickness of their children, the families demonstrated the coping behavior in 4 manners : problem solving (88.24%), utilization family resources (88.24%), relaxing of the stress (66.18%), and giving good meaning of situation(47.06%). In solving the problem of their children sickness, 88.24% of the families sought for information about their children's sickness, 52.94% prevented their children from getting infected, 80.88% used internal family resources. Relaxing the stress, 66.18% of the families cried, 48.53% conducted recreational activities, 47.06% expected that their children would get better,30.88% belived that having acute lymphoblastic leukemia was a fate,and 30.88% hoped that their sick children would receive good medical treatment. When facing the economic problem, 69.09% of the families applied for medical welfare of the hopsitals, and 39.71% worked harder to earn more money. In solving the problem of their

children's growth and development, 73.33% provided more food for their children. Utilizing internal family resources, 26.67% of the families talked about the problems and tried to find means for solving them. In facing the stress caused by their sick children's schooling, 88.46% the families let their children go to school when felt better, and 53.85% talked about schooling problem and tried to find means for solving it. Relaxing the stress caused by the families' jobs, 87.5% of the families consulted with their with their job supervisors and colleague, and 12.5% planned to do their work in advance. Reducing the stress resulted from husbands and 'wives' relationships, 100% of the families with children having acute lymphoblastic leukemia cried and 66.67% asked the relatives to help improving the relationship.