

Thesis Title	Predictive Factors on Self-Care of School-Age Leukemic Children
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Abstract

Leukemia is the leading cause of death in Thai school age children. A life-threatening condition has much impact not only on children also on their families. Long term treatment needs highly support from family to enhance children's capabilities on self care. Most literatures emphasized the patients' factors. This study aimed to look at the predictive factors on self-care of Thai school age leukemic children which included family factor. Orem self-care theory was used as a framework. The 120 leukemic children aged 6-12 and 120 caregivers were purposively selected from the cancer clinic, Ramathibodi Hospital. Self concept, self care performance and caregiver coping questionnaires were used to obtain data from October to December 2008. The reliability was tested using Cronbach's Alpha which yielded result of .826, .804 and .834 respectively. Percentage, mean, standard deviation, Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient, chi-square test and stepwise multiple regression were used to analyze data.

Results of the study showed that overall self concept, caregiver coping and self care were at high level. Education level, self concept and caregiver coping were significantly related to self care ($p < .05$). The significant factors influencing self care were self concept and caregiver coping. These two factors were the predictors as they all accounted for 21.6 percent of self-care.

Evidence from this study could lead to conclude that the roadmap to enhance self care of Thai school age leukemic children should provide nursing services to promote self concept of the children as well as effective coping in caregivers at the same time.