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NETCHANOK TUAN : RELATIONSHIPS OF SLE MEANING, SELF PERCEPTION  
AND THERAPEUTIC COMPLIANCE IN SLE PATIENTS. THESIS ADVISORS : VEENA  
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The objective of this study is to study the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) meaning , self perception and therapeutic compliance as well as the relationships among SLE meaning , self perception and therapeutic compliance of the SLE patients. The sample consisted of 107 female patients who attended outpatient clinics of Dermatology, Nephrology and Rheumatology at Siriraj Hospital. Data were collected by using a structured questionnaire and indepth interview. Descriptive statistics and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation were used for analyzing the data. The qualitative data were analyzed through content analysis.

The result of this study revealed that on the opinion aspect of meaning of SLE, patients held negative opinions of the ailment. They defined their sickness as a sinful obligation, chronic suffering and cause of ugliness. But subjects had some positive sense on the aspect of effects of illness because they had enough self esteem to face the people in community and could have an independent life. The patients responded better in the aspect of social relationship than self image. The self perception decreased when the sickness was exacerbated, however the patients expected that they would improve some day. In the aspect of therapeutic compliance it was found the percentage of drug compliance was only 55.9% and of the patients who did not continue follow up was 40.0% . However most patients still had good oral hygiene and good skin care. The SLE meaning and self perception were found to be significantly related to therapeutic compliance ( $p < 0.05$ ). Consequently, we should encourage the patients to have positive meaning of sickness and self acceptance in most situations which should bring improvement in therapeutic compliance.