

3536155 NSNS/D : MAJOR : NURSING SCIENCE ; D.N.S (NURSING SCIENCE)

KEY WORDS : ILLNESS EXPERIENCE / ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE

CHUANPIT TUMNONG : ILLNESS EXPERIENCE OF PATIENTS WITH ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE. THESIS ADVISORS : SUCHITTRA LAUNGAMORNLEERT DNSc., APORN CHUAPRAPAISILP Ph.D., PAYOM EUSWAS Ph.D., BENCHAI YODDUMNERN-ATTIG Ph.D. 172 p. ISBN 974-662-004-5

This phenomenological study aimed to explore the meaning of illness with ischemic heart disease, the experience of illness management and influencing factors. A purposive sample of ischemic heart disease patients were selected from the out patient department of a hospital in Northeastern Thailand. The study was conducted from December 1996 to March 1998. Data were collected by conducting in-depth interview, observation, writing field notes, tape recording, and examining hospital patient records. The Colaizzi method was used for data analysis.

The results showed the meaning of illness with ischemic heart disease was given according to their perceived symptoms of chest pain reflecting severity and life threatening, as **harmful disease, acute chest pain grow up so quickly leading to dyspnea and weakness might die easily**, the meaning given while absent of symptom was **the disease can be cured** and the meaning of life threatening was reflecting a threat to life style, **the disease that is difficult to cure**. The experience of illness appeared in three main themes. These were 1) facing acute symptoms, including suddenly occurring; increasing severity and suffering; and being fear of dying alone and being helpless 2) going to a hospital immediately for life saving with urgently receiving treatment and being watchful, and 3) supporting to live long life by continuously select and manage therapeutic modalities, empowering self, adjusting lifestyle, and seeking knowledge. The pattern of illness and its management showed as the continuous cycle of learning with the influencing factors of given meaning of illness, economic situations, being modest, family burden, family caring, incomplete and unclear advice, health information, and other resources.

This study indicated the necessity for nurses to understand patients' perception of meaning and managing the illness of ischemic heart disease, as well as the need to design continuity of nursing care approach which incorporate patients' experiences of illness in order to help the patients live longer period of remission of illness.