

Thesis Title Relationships among Social Support Selected Factors
and Fatigue in Caregivers of Head Injured Patients
in Recovery Stage

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Abstract

The purposes of this study were to determine the fatigue of caregivers of head injured patients in recovery stage, to determine the relationships between social support, duration of caregiving, daily hours of care, severity of disability and fatigue of caregivers and to identify predictive variables of fatigue of caregivers. The subjects were 50 caregivers of head injured patients attending at neurological surgery clinic of Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital during June 1996 to August 1996. They were selected by purposive sampling. Instruments used were Demographic Recording Form; Social

Support Questionnaire developed by Saipin Gasemgitvatana (1994) the reliability was .91; Disability of Patient Assessment Form developed by researcher, and Fatigue Questionnaire modified from Piper Fatigue Scale (1986) by the researcher. Content validity of Disability of Patient Assessment Form and Fatigue Questionnaire were done. The reliability of Disability of Patient Assessment Form obtained by interrater reliability was 1.0 and Fatigue Questionnaire obtained by Cronbach's coefficient alpha was .87.

Demographic data were analyzed by using frequency, percentage, means, and standard deviation. Correlation between variables were analyzed by using Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient. Predictive selection was done by stepwise multiple regression.

The results of the study were:

1. Caregivers of head injured patients perceived overall fatigue in moderate level. Caregivers of head injured patients perceived fatigue in behavioral subscale, physical subscale and psychological subscale in moderate level and intellectual/cognitive subscale in mild level.

2. There was a statistically significant negative relationships between perceived social support and fatigue of caregivers of head injured patients. ($p < .001$, $r = -.5055$)

3. There was a statistically significant positive relationships between severity of disability of head injured patient, daily hours of care and fatigue of caregivers of head injured patients. ($p < .001$, $r = .7042$, 8033 respectively)

4. There was no relationships between duration of caregiving and fatigue of caregivers of head injured patients.

5. The stepwise multiple regression analysis revealed that severity of disability of head injured patients and social support of caregivers are able to predict fatigue in caregivers at .0001 level of significant.