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PANADDA ROJTANONGCHAI : THE EFFECT OF TOUCH NURSING ON ANXIETY OF INTRAOPERATIVE PATIENTS WHO RECEIVED LOCAL ANESTHESIA IN MAKARAK HOSPITAL, KANCHANABURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS : VARATTAMA SUKVATTANANAN, D.N.S., DUSIT SUJIRARAT, B.Sc., M.Sc.(BIOSTAT) 102 p. ISBN 974-663-761-4

Surgery produces anxiety in almost all patients, especially in patients who received local anesthesia as they are conscious during surgery. This situation produces anxiety. If unrecognized, prolonged anxiety creates stress which may subsequently harm the patient and delay recovery. There are various methods to reduce these problems. Touch nursing, one method developed by this researcher, consists of 2 parts. First the nurse gives relevant information to the patient prior to surgery, in order to establish a beneficial relationship. Second the nurse is present during surgery to touch and relax the patient. Thus, this researcher is interested in studying the effect of touch nursing on anxiety of intraoperative patients who received local anesthesia. The main purpose of this quasi-experimental research was to determine the effect of touch nursing on anxiety of intraoperative patients who received local anesthesia in Makarak Hospital, Kanchanaburi Province. The subjects were 40 female surgical patients who received local anesthesia for the excision of breast mass and excision of carpal ganglion at Makarak Hospital during May-October 1999. Subjects were selected by matching and divided into two groups by matching criteria of age and type of operation. The experimental group received touch nursing by the researcher, and the control group received only routine nursing by the hospital staff. The data was collected before and after the intervention by using questionnaires and was analyzed by independent and pair T-test.

The results revealed that, the experimental group had a lower mean score in anxiety than the control group at the significant level ($P < 0.05$) after the experiment, and the experimental group had a lower mean score in anxiety than the score before experiment at the significant level of $P < 0.001$. This method should be applied by nurses to female intraoperative surgical patients who received local anesthesia for excision of breast mass, excision of carpal ganglion, in order to reduce anxiety before and during the operation.