

Thesis Title Comparative Study the Effectiveness of Two
Methods in Promotion of Self-Care on Self-
Care Deficit and Radiation Side Effects
among Cervical Cancer Patients

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ABSTRACT

This quasi-experimental research was designed to evaluate the effectiveness of two methods in promotion of self-care on self-care deficit and radiation side-effects base on Orem's nursing theory. Purposive sampling was used to select 60 cervical cancer patients from radiation therapy outpatient clinic, Ramathibodi Hospital, according to the predetermined criteria. The first 30 subjects who received radiotherapy from August to October 1991 were assigned into the control group; and the latter 30 subjects who received the same therapy from November, 1991 to March, 1992 were in the experimental group. Subjects in both group received slide-tape program and manual for self-care practice for patient undergoing radiation at pelvic area, but subjects in the experimental group received additional continuity supportive-educative for self-care from the investiga-

tor and a research assistant throughout radiation treatment. Self care Deficit was measured by the Self-care Deficit Scale modified by the investigator from Self-care Agency Scale developed by Nitaya Takviriyannun(1991) and Worawan Nuaklong(1991) for patients undergoing radiation therapy and Self-care deficit Scale developed by Rachanee Namjantra (1992) for patients undergoing chemotherapy. Radiation side-effects were evaluated according to a grading of acute and subacute toxicity proposed by WHO. Qualitative data pertained to self-care practice was also obtained during the interaction between the investigator or a research assistant with the patients both individual and group.

Results of the study showed that the mean score on self-care deficit during radiotherapy for the experimental group was not significantly different from the control group. However, at the last week of the radiotherapy, the mean score on self-care deficit for experimental group was significantly lower than for the control group ($p < .001$). The weekly mean scores on radiation side-effect during the first to fifth week of both groups were not significantly different but during the sixth week of treatment the mean score on radiation side-effect for the experimental group was significantly lower than for the control group ($P < .05$).

The finding supported the beneficial of the continuity supportive-educative for self-care based on Orem's nursing theory to decrease patients self-care deficit. Strength and limitation of the study were discussed. Implication for clinical practice, nursing education and further study are recommended.