

Thesis Title The Effectiveness of Group Counseling for Mother
 of Thalassemic Children on Childcare Behavior
 at Thalassemic Clinic in Lampang Hospital.

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ABSTRACT

Thalassemia, a kind of common genetic hematological disorder causing congenital hemolytic anemia which seriously affects Thailand's Public Health status due to the increment of the incidence. Many Thais have thalassemic genes. Lampang, a province in the North of Thailand, is one of many provinces that has high incidence of thalassemia. Ministry of Public Health state in the Seventh National Development Plan that health education for family care should be used the strategy to minimize the problem. Therefore, this study proposed group counseling for mother of thalassemic children as the intervention. The objective of this research was to study the effectiveness of group counseling for mother of thalassemic children on childcare behavior at thalassemic clinic in Lampang Hospital during September 1992 and January 1993. The total of 100 mothers of thalassemic children were purposively selected and randomly assigned to an experimental group and a control group. The experimental group received 3 counseling sessions, two hours each. Both groups were interviewed three times using the interview questionnaire developed

by the researcher. All data were analyzed by SPSS computer program. Statistics employed in this study included percentage, arithmetics mean, standard deviation, t-test, Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and ratio. The level of statistical reliability is 95%.

Result indicated that

1. After the experiment, the experimental group had a statistically higher level of the mean score on knowledge, attitude, perception of children problems, perception of the result of problem solving activities and childcare behavior than those before the experiment and higher than those of control group at the 0.001 significant level.
2. After the experiment, the infection rate in the experimental group was statistically lower than that before the experiment and the control group at the 0.001 significant level.
3. After the experiment, the experimental group could maintain the statistically higher hematocrit level than that of the control group at the 0.001 significant level.
4. Knowledge, attitude and perception of thalassemic children problems were positively related to the childcare behavior but the perception of the result of the activities was negatively related to the childcare behavior.
5. The childcare behavior had a negative relationship with the infection rate but a positive relationship with the hematocrit level maintenance at the 0.001 significant level.

The study group results suggested that the group counseling service should be provided at the thalassemic clinic.