

Thesis Title Effect of Teaching by using Group
 Process on Adaptational Ability of
 the Head and Neck Cancer Patients
 Reciving Radiotherapy
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Date of Graduation 3 March B.E. 2536 (1993)

Abstract

Carcinoma of the head and neck ranks third among cancers found in Thai population and the incidence increases annually. At present, radiotherapy is one of the standard mode of treatment. However, the treatment for cancer and the follow-up may require a long period of time and may result in a great deal of stress and anxiety for the patients. They may also affect the patients' daily living activities. Therefore, information provided by using group process may assist the patients in adapting themselves to the treatment more effectively. By this method, the patients are provided the information and knowleage about the disease and its treatment and are encouraged to support each other among members of the group. Thus, the researcher is interested in studying the effect of teaching by using group process on adaptational ability of the head and neck cancer patients receiving radiotherapy.

A quasi-experimental resgrearch was implemented. The sample consisted of 38 head and neck cancer patients receiving radiotherapy at the department of radiotherapy Siriraj hospital. The sample was selected by purposive

sampling method according to the predetermined criteria and divided into two groups. The first 18 patients were assigned to be the experimental group, receiving the information by using group process and the next 20 patients were assigned to be the control group, receiving routine instruction by hospital personnels. The tools used in the study included demographic data form and the adaptation rating scale. Data were analysed by using ANCOVA in order to compare the difference of adaptation between the two groups.

The result showed that the score of adaptation in the experimental group was significantly higher than that of the control group ($p < .001$)

As the result of this study, the researcher recommends that nurses should implement group process in order to increase adaptational ability of the head and neck cancer patients receiving radiotherapy. The recommendation for study included that group process should be used in the other groups of patients, i.e., laryngectomy, amputation and colostomy in order to promote adaptational ability.