

Thesis Title The Relationship between Selected Factors, Social
Support and Adaptation of Myocardial Infarction
Patients

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ABSTRACT

Myocardial Infarction is a chronic incurable disease. The number of patient are increasing every year. Physical change such as; a decrease in the level capacity of daily living, chest pain and fear from sudden death often lead patients to experience psychosocial problems. Both physical and psychological changes induce stress to the patients and it is believed that this stress can aggravate the disease process. Therefore the patient therefore needs to gain adaptation in order to have a normal life. The nurse as a health care provider should know about the influences of some selected factors on the adaptation in order to enhance patients' well being. The researcher was interested in studying the relationship between selected factors, social support and adaptation of myocardial infarction patients. The sample was composed of 120 Myocardial Infarction

patients who were followed at the Out Patient Department of the heart clinics of Siriraj Hospital, Pramongkutkloa Hospital, Rajvithi Hospital, Central Chest Hospital and Chulalongkorn Hospital. The instruments used in the study were composed of demographic data, social support and adaptation questionnaires. Data was analyzed by using percentage arithmetic means, Standard deviation, Pearson product moment correlation coefficient and stepwise multiple regression.

The results were as follows :

1. Social network for the Myocardial Infarction patients were provided primarily by the spouse and their children. Support from these individuals was primarily done on a face to face basis more than 30 times in 3 months and for more than 20 years.
2. Most patients felt that they received a moderate amount of social support.
3. There was a positive significant correlation between social support and adaptation at the .001 level ($r=.64$)
4. There was a positive significant correlation between duration of education and adaptation at the .001 level ($r=.39$)
5. There was a positive significant correlation between duration of illness and adaptation at the .05 level ($r=.19$)
6. There was a positive significant correlation between monthly income and adaptation at the .05 level ($r=.18$)
7. There was no statistically significant correlation between age, marital status and adaptation at the .05 level.
8. The results of the stepwise multiple regression analysis showed that 43.26 percent of the variances of adaptation was accounted

for by two significant predictors, i.e., social support and duration of illness. The regression equation respectively in raw score was

$$\hat{Y}(\text{ADAP}) = 105.1532 + 6660(\text{SOCIAL}) + .0825(\text{TIME})$$

Based on this study, the researcher recommends that the nurse encourage social support and care provided by the spouse and their children. Increased attention should be provided to those patients who have a terminal illness and shortened life expectancy. Factors that influence the patients adaptation such as; severity of the disease, capability of the individual to perform activities of daily living and health perception should be considered for future study.