

Thesis Title : The Relationship between Social Support and Coping Behavior of Cardiac Patients

Name : Waraporn Nakarat

Degree : Master of Science (Nursing)

Thesis Supervisory Committee

: Tassana Boontong, B.Ed., M.S., Ed.D.

: Farida Ibrahim, B.Ed., M.S.

: Kaimook Wichiencharoen, B.Sc., M.Ed.

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ABSTRACT

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among Thai people. Patients with heart disease create stress. Coping behaviors toward stress vary in each individual patients and hence affect the progressive of the disease. Social support is the factor that influents coping behavior. The purpose of this study was to study the relationship between social support and coping behavior of cardiac patients. The 150 purposive samples were cardiac patients. The instruments are demographic data, social support and coping behavioral questionnaires. Data were analysed by Pearson product moment correlation Coefficient, T-test and One way analysis of variance. The result were.

1. There were positive significant correlations

between social support and coping behavior in cardiac patients at the 0.001 level. ($r = 0.4510$)

2. The variances of ages, marital status, educational level, family incomes in cardiac patients had significant differences social support at the 0.01, 0.05, 0.05 and 0.05 level. There was no significant differences of social support in cardiac patients by sex and duration of being heart disease. ($P > 0.05$)

3. The variances of age of cardiac patients had significant differences in coping behaviors at the 0.05 level and there were no significant difference of coping behavior in cardiac patients by sex, marital status, educational level, family incomes and duration of being heart disease. ($P > 0.05$)

From this study, it is confirmed that social support is the important factor that influenced the cardiac patients' coping behaviors. Nurses whom are caring of cardiac patients should enhance suitable coping behavior of the patients by encouraging and teaching families and members of the patients' social network to give them emotional support and provide good care. Further study should be done regarding other factors influencing the cardiac patients' coping behaviors such as belief and knowledge.