

3836957RAAN/M: MAJOR: ADULT NURSING; M.N.S. (ADULT NURSING)

KEY WORD: UNCERTAINTY / APPRAISAL / COPING / WAITING FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY.

SAVAI NORASAN: UNCERTAINTY, APPRAISAL, AND COPING OF PATIENTS WAITING FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY. THESIS ADVISORS: YUPAPIN SIRAPO-NGAM, B.Sc. (NURSING AND MIDWIFERY), M.Ed. (NURSING ADM.), D.S.N., SUCHIN VICHITKARN, B.Sc. (NURSING), M.S.N. 96 p. ISBN 974-588-960-1

The purposes of this descriptive research were to: 1) describe uncertainty, appraisal, and coping of patients waiting for elective surgery, and 2) identify the proportions of coping strategies used by the patients both those who appraised uncertainty as opportunity and as danger. The Mishel Uncertainty in Illness model and the Lazarus Stress, Appraisal, and Coping model were used as conceptual framework for this study. Based on protection of human subjects, a purposive sample including 110 patients waiting for elective surgery was obtained from the Surgical Out-Patient Department at Ramathibodi hospital between March and April 1997. The volunteer subjects who agreed to participate in the study were asked to complete four instruments: the Demographic Questionnaire, Mishel Uncertainty Inventory Scale, Uncertainty Appraisal Scale, and Jalowiec Coping Scale. Frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, relative scores, and independent t-test were used to analyse data by using SPSS/FW program.

Results indicated that the majority of samples were women with mean age of 41.89. The top four diagnoses were Thyroid disease, Gall Stone, Breast cancer, and Hemorrhoid. Eighty-three percent of the sample were waiting for elective surgery less than one month. The samples perceived a moderate level of uncertainty, and appraised uncertainty as opportunity much more than as danger. The patients who appraised uncertainty as opportunity had no statistical difference in mean score of uncertainty from those who appraised as danger. No matter what patients appraised, they used both problem-focused and emotion-focused coping. Both opportunity and danger groups used more proportions of emotion-focused copings than problem-focused copings. The results can be used as information and guideline for nurses who work with the patients waiting for elective surgery.