

Thesis Title Quality of Life of Preterm Infants

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Date of Graduation 26 May B.E. 2540 (1997)

Abstract

Good quality of life is essential for preterm infants. The quality of life of preterm infants depends upon appropriate response of the infant's basic minimal needs i.e. nutrition, immunization, caring during illness and appropriate child-rearing. The purpose of this study was to investigate the quality of life of preterm infants and factors related to their quality of life. The sample was comprised of 110 premature infants at 6 months of age who attend the Preterm Infants Clinic and/or Well-Baby Clinic of Siriraj Hospital, Somdejprapinklao Hospital, Vajira Hospital, Phramongkutklao Hospital, Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health and Public Health Center 30. Data were collected by assessing weight, height, developmental status and auditing history of illness as well as infants' condition. Infants' mothers were also interviewed regarding child - rearing knowledge and response to basic minimal needs of infants. Data were analyzed by using Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient.

The result revealed that most of sample were 32 - 36 weeks of gestational age. Birth weight was between 1,500 - 1,999 grams and Apgar scores was 7 - 10 at 5 minutes without complication such as respiratory distress, hypoglycemia, sepsis, anemia, NEC, BPD, seizure except hyperbilirubinemia with photo therapy. Duration of hospitalization was approximately 1 - 15 days and reach a good quality of life 58.2 percent.

There were significant correlation between infants' condition, child-rearing knowledge and family income with quality of life of preterm infants ($r = -.2958, .4215, .2572$ $P > .001, .01,$

.001 respectively). There were no significant correlation between age, education, occupation and family characteristic ($P > .05$). There were points regarding child - rearing knowledge mothers did not possess correctly i.e. immunization, food supplement at 6 months and appropriate care during illness. In addition, some mothers responded to some items of basic minimal needs inappropriately for instance breast feeding, food supplement at 6 months., oral hygiene and paternal support.

From the results of this study the researcher suggested that nurses need to promote quality of life of preterm infants by providing information and knowledge to mothers about breast feeding, food supplement, oral hygiene, immunization and paternal support. Appropriate suggestions were made based on infants' condition, child - rearing knowledge of infants and family income.