

Thesis Title The Mental Health and Coping Style of Chronic Pain Patients in Pain Clinic
of Siriraj Hospital

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to determine the chronic pain patients' coping style, mental health and the relationship between mental health and coping style. The research instruments included personal background questionnaire, the Ways of Coping and the General Health Questionnaire-28 were administered to 12 males and 27 females of new chronic pain patients at pain clinic of Siriraj Hospital, during January to March 1997.

Coping served two overriding functions : managing or altering the cause of the problem with the environment (problem focused coping) and regulating the emotional response to the problem (emotion focused coping).

The study showed 36 subjects used combination of problem and emotion focused coping style, and 3 subjects used problem focused coping style. No significant differences were found between groups of cost expenditure, pain stimuli, pain experiences and pain cognition on both of problem and emotion focused coping style, but gender scored significantly different on problem focused coping.

The GHQ-28 scores indicated 21 subjects may have mental health problems, and showed weak relationship with demographic variable and coping style. Finally, positive correlation coefficient between problem and emotion focused coping was significant. It confirmed that combination of problem and emotion focused was a model coping style.