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PERCEPTION AND ANXIETY IN PATIENTS WITH CORONARY ARTERY
DISEASE UNDERGOING CARDIAC INVESTIGATIONS. THESIS ADVISORS :
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The purpose of this descriptive research was to determine the relationship between health perception and anxiety in 150 patients with coronary artery disease undergoing cardiac investigations, 75 subjects in each for noninvasive and invasive investigations at the Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Division of Nuclear Medicine, Department of Radiology and Her Majesty's Cardiac Centre, Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University.

The instruments for data collection were interviewing forms, composed of three parts : demographic data, health perception and anxiety questionnaire. Content validity was assessed by 5 experts. The reliability, analyzed by Cronbach's alpha coefficient, of health perception, state and trait anxiety before investigations and state anxiety after investigation were .72, .88, .82 and .87, respectively. The derived data were analyzed and reported as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, Pearson's correlation coefficient and compared by t-test.

The results of this study showed that before the investigations the patients had a fair level of health perception. The state and trait anxiety levels were moderate and mild, respectively. The state anxiety before investigation was correlated to trait anxiety ($p < .01$). Both state and trait anxiety were correlated to health perception ($p < .01$) in both non invasive and invasive patients ($p < .01$). The state anxiety before investigation between noninvasive and invasive investigations was not different. After investigation, the state anxiety was lower than before investigation ($p < .01$). However, 32% of the patients still had a moderate level of state anxiety. Nurses should promote and support the patients to improve their health perceptions and pay attention to patients both before and after noninvasive and invasive investigations in order to decrease their anxiety level.