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NONGLAK TONGIN : PERCEPTIONS OF PATIENTS WITH CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE UNDERGOING PERCUTANEOUS TRANSLUMINAL CORONARY ANGIOPLASTY. THEMATIC PAPER ADVISORS : PENCHUN SAREEWATTHANA, M.Sc., KRONGDAI UNHASUTA, Ed.D., 66 P. ISBN 974-664-113-1

This study was descriptive research designed to study perceptions of patients with coronary artery disease (CAD) undergoing percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA). The purposive samplings consisted of 30 patients with CAD undergoing PTCA at the medical wards, cardio-thoracic surgical ward, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Medical College and Vajira Hospital. The study was conducted from January to February, 2000. Data were collected by tape recording, interviewing and observing the subjects. Qualitative data were analyzed by content analysis. Frequency and percentage were used to analyze quantitative data.

The results of this study were as follows :

Perceptions of CAD patients on illness could be categorized into seven items : life threatening disease (80.0%), affected daily activities and work (70.0%), affected economic status (16.7%), created concerns over important persons (16.7%), affected patients' role (10.0%), reduced self esteem (3.3%). Some perceived CAD as a chronic disease (3.3%). The subjects perceived that coronary artery disease affected their quality of life. Perceptions of CAD patients concerning PTCA had nine categories : helpful (80.0%), dangerous treatment (16.7%), discomfort (16.7%), affected economic status (16.7%), obstacle to daily activities (10.0%), and palliative treatment (10.0%). Some perceived the PTCA as heart surgery (3.3%), similar to CAG (3.3%) and 3.3 percent felt that it was normal. The subjects perceived quality of life would increase after PTCA.

This study suggest that the nurses should undertake the role of assessing CAD patients' perceptions on illness and treatment they receive. In-service education about nurse-patient communication, psychosocial approach techniques and knowledge of CAD should be provided to the nurses immediately in order to improve the CAD patients' quality of life.