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RATANA TANSAWATDI : FUNCTIONAL HEALTH PATTERNS IN PATIENTS A WAITING CARDIAC SURGERY : THEMATIC PAPER
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The purpose of this descriptive study was aimed to describe functional health patterns in patient awaiting cardiac surgery. The study was conducted in the cardiothoracic surgical clinic at Siriraj Hospital during the period of February to March 2000. The sample were 30 accidental sampling of patients waiting for cardiac surgery. The questionnaire was outlined to serve the purpose of this study by applying knowledge from related literature and the 11 functional health patterns of Gordon (1982, 80-96). Their reliability was tested by using Cronbach' s Alpha Coefficient with the value of 0.74. The data analyzed by using SPSS/ C. Program.

The results of this study showed the overall patterns of the functional health pattern were at a good level. Among on each patterns, the coping – stress- tolerance pattern was at an excellent level, the cognitive perception pattern was at a fair level and the other nine patterns were at a good level. The subjects' behaviors in some items which should be improved were taking medication, salty diet, exercise and health information. Therefore nurse should encourage the patients to have an appropriate health pattern by giving helpful advice and information and should follow up on them to prevent complications during the waiting period .