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JINTANA HANPRASITKAM: CAREGIVERS' NEEDS FOR CARING  
CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN AT HOME. THESIS ADVISORS: KAIMOOK  
WICHENCHAROEN, Ed.D., RASHANEE SEEDA, M.Ed, PRANUDDA PRIYATRUK, M.S.,  
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Cerebral palsy is a common childhood disease that causes permanent physical disabilities. It is a group of nonprogressive encephalopathies which show many effects. The effects are seen by ages, and it invariably affects motor function. Many cerebral palsy children are dependent and often perceived as a burden. The patient needs endless caregiving. Caregivers also experience a high level of stress and need professional help in decreasing such a burden. This study aimed to investigate the caregivers' needs for caring for cerebral palsy children at home, and identify factors that predict their needs. This study was a descriptive research. The sample was composed of 140 caregivers of cerebral palsy children, below 6 years of age. Data was obtained from questionnaires: personal data, patient data and caregivers' needs. Data was analyzed using mean, standard deviation, Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient, and multiple regression.

The results of the study showed that the overall mean score and the mean scores of each section of caregivers' needs were in a moderate level. The sections of caregivers' needs included information, psychological, financial, spiritual, household management and physical needs. Caregiver characteristics (age, education level, marital status, number of children, workplace, family income, duration of caring) and patient characteristics (birth order, age, severity of disability) are unable to predict caregivers' needs.

The results from this study provide considerations for nursing practice. Nurses should coordinate with health care providers on how to best advise caregivers of cerebral palsy children. Nurses can support and provide education to the caregivers and family members about meeting the needs of these children, especially the spiritual and psychological needs. Nurses should also encourage the rehabilitation of the children to improve their functioning.