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WANIDA LIKITSINSOPON: QUALITY OF LIFE OF
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The purposes of this study were to explore quality of life of laryngectomee and analyze some of the associated factors which are age, marital status, educational level, time duration since total laryngectomy, and membership in a laryngectomees' self-help group. The research sample consisted of 100 laryngectomees who were obtained through the out-patient otolaryngological clinic at Ramathibodi Hospital and Rajavithi Hospital from April to August 1999. Eligible subjects were interviewed by the researcher with a demographic questionnaire and subjective self-rating QOL-CA instrument of Padilla and colleagues. The time frame during which the laryngectomees were asked to recall their quality of life was 1 week before responding to the questionnaires. All data were analyzed by using a SPSS for Windows program.

The results showed that most of the laryngectomees had moderate to good overall QOL. There were statistically significant differences of overall QOL, and two subscales (psychosocial-existential well-being and physical-functional well-being) scores between participants who were and were not members in a laryngectomees' self-help group ($p < .05$). There were statistically nonsignificant differences found of overall QOL, subscale scores between laryngectomee who had differences in age, educational level, marital status, and time duration since total laryngectomy groups ($p > .05$)

The results of this study can be used as baseline information in planning specific nursing interventions for patients who have had a total laryngectomy.