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WIPARAT SANGSUWAN : THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SUPPORT
AND ADAPTATION IN ADOLESCENTS WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS. THESIS ADVISOR :
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There is an increasing number of adolescents with chronic illness. These patients with chronic illness, over time, have to adapt to the complications of diseases and their inability to perform developmental tasks. It is hypothesized that social support could help these patients to adapt more effectively. Therefore, this study is aimed at determining the relationship between social support and adaptation in adolescents with chronic illness. The sample consisted of 150 adolescents with chronic illness who visited the physicians at the out patient departments at Siriraj hospital, Chulalongkorn hospital and Queen Sirikij National Institute of Child Health. Two questionnaires, Social Support and Adaptation of adolescents with chronic illness, were used for collecting data. Data were analyzed by using percentage, mean, standard deviation, Pearson's Product Moment correlation coefficient and stepwise multiple regression.

The findings of this study show that social support and adaptation of adolescents with chronic illness were in a good level. There was a significantly positive correlation between overall social support and adaptation ($r = .5221, p < .001$). Social support and level of education were able to predict 29.2 percent of the variances of adaptation in adolescents with chronic illness. The results of this study suggest that in order to improve the prospects of adolescents with chronic illness, nurses should increase the social support through considering their level of education.