

3836765 NSMC/M : MAJOR : MATERNAL AND CHILD NURSING ; M. N. S.

(MATERNAL AND CHILD NURSING)

KEY WORD : SOCIAL SUPPORT/ MATERNAL ADAPTATION/ THALASSEMIA

KANCHIT SRINON: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SUPPORT AND
MATERNAL ADAPTATION IN CARING FOR THALASSEMIC CHILDREN.

THESIS ADVISOR : PORNSRI SRIUSSADAPORN, M. Ed. (EDUCATIONAL
RESEARCH), YUPIN CHANDARAGGA, M. Ed. (EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH),
NONGLUK CHINTANADILOK, D.N.S., 96 p. ISBN 974-589-533-4

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between social support and maternal adaptation in caring for thalassemic children by using Roy's Adaptation Model as a theoretical framework. The sample included 200 mothers with thalassemic children who attended the pediatric hematological clinics at Srinagarind Hospital, Udon Thani Hospital and Khon Kaen Hospital. Data were collected by using three questionnaires assessing personal data, social support and maternal adaptation. Data were analyzed by using percentage, mean, standard deviations, Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient and stepwise multiple regression.

The results of this study indicated that mothers of thalassemic children demonstrated pretty high perceived social support and maternal adaptation. There was a significantly positive correlation between social support and maternal adaptation in caring for thalassemic children ($P < .001$, $r = .462$). The stepwise multiple regression revealed that social support was the first predictor of maternal adaptation accounting for 21.3 percent ($p < .001$); whereas 30.5 percent of the variance of maternal adaptation was accounted for by four significant predictors, i.e. social support, frequency of hospitalizations, educational level of mother and children's age ($p < .05$).

The study suggests that nurses as mothers' network can directly provide support to mothers and can encourage spouses and relatives to provide useful support to mothers. More attention should be focused on mothers who have lower educational level, younger thalassemic children and higher frequency of children's hospitalizations.