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JUNIOR LIEUTENANT KWUNTA TREESAKUNWATANA : A STUDY OF HEALTH-PROMOTING BEHAVIORS IN THE ELDERLY WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE KNEE. THESIS ADVISOR : WANNEE SATAYAWIWAT, M.Ed., O.N.C., BONGKOCH KENGKHETKIT, M.Ed., SOMPAN HINJIRANAN, M.S. 96 p. ISBN 974-589-859-7

Osteoarthritis of the knee in the elderly is a chronic disease which affect their physical, mental and social well - being. Appropriate health - promoting behaviors help improve the quality of life of these patients. The purpose of these study is to study the health - promoting behavior of the elderly with osteoarthritis of the knee. One hundred subjects were selected by purposive sample from the elderly with osteoarthritis of the knee whom attended the orthopedic clinics at Siriraj Hospital, Rajvithi Hospital, Lerdsin Hospital and Somdej Phrapinkhlao Hospital. Four questionnaires ; i.e., personal data, health-promoting behaviors, interpersonal influences and situational influences were used for data collection. Data were analysed by using mean, standard deviation, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation coefficient and the stepwise multiple regression.

The result of the study reveals that overall health-promoting behavior in the elderly with osteoarthritis and each subscale, including health responsibility, physical activity, nutrition, interpersonal relations, spiritual growth, and stress management, showed at good level. There was a statistically significant positive correlation between health-promoting behavior and interpersonal influences ( $r = .3487, P < .001$ ) where situational influences did not have significant correlation ( $r = .1377, P > .05$ ). The stepwise multiple regression revealed that 12.15 percent of variance of health-promoting behavior was accounted for interpersonal influences.

From the result this research, the investigator recommends that health personnel should promote the interperson influences between elderly and relatives who take care of the elderly with osteoarthritis of the knee by support and attend the elderly to continue their appropriate activity in the 6 subscales of health-promoting behaviors.