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KEY WORD : NEEDS/FAMILY MEMBERS OF CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS WITH ACUTE
BRAIN INJURY

LIEUTENANT UBOLWAN KITIRATTRAGARN : THE STUDY ON NEEDS OF
FAMILY MEMBERS OF CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS WITH ACUTE BRAIN INJURY. THESIS
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Family members of patients with acute brain injury may confront situational crisis suddenly. Each family member has a desire manifested which needs to be met by nurses. Therefore, nurses who practice holistic nursing should extend their roles independently to meet the needs of family members. The purposes of this research were 1) to study on needs of family members of critically ill patients with acute brain injury as perceived by the family members and the nurses. 2) to compare needs of family members as perceived by the family members and as the nurses. Sample groups consisted of 123 family members of critically ill patients with acute brain injury and 107 professional nurses working in surgical ICU of six hospitals : Police Hospital, Pramongkutkloa Hospital, Somdetprapinkloa Hospital, Klang Hospital, Wachira Hospital and Nopratrajathani Hospital. The data collection instrument was CCFNI questionnaires adapted from Molter's Critical Care Family Needs Inventory (CCFNI) and divided in to six major needs by Daleys' study : Need for relief of anxiety, Need for information, Need to be with the patients, Need to be helpful, Personal needs and Need for support and ventilation. Data were analyzed by using percentage, mean, standard deviation and T-test.

The finding of this study show that the first major need of family members was need for relief of anxiety ($\bar{X}=3.74$ S.D.=0.26) and the last was need for support and ventilation ($\bar{X}=3.01$ S.D.=0.58). The first major need perceived by the nurses was need for relief of anxiety ($\bar{X}=3.41$ S.D.=0.39) and the last were need to be with the patients ($\bar{X}=2.79$ S.D.=0.63). The comparison indicated the perceptions of family members were higher than nurses at the .001 level of significance. The study also indicated that most family members perceived their needs were met (>67.6%) and nurses were identified as meeting their needs the most (63.15%).

Therefore nurses should be encouraged to incorporate a family needs assessment in the nursing care plan corresponding to the needs of family members in order to support family members to encourage the patients which will help patients progress and recover sooner.