

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This descriptive research study was conducted to describe quality of life among traumatic amputees. The subjects were eighty-three Chinese amputees who met eligibility criteria at three teaching hospitals of China Medical University and in their homes in Shenyang, People's Republic of China. The instruments used for data collection in this study were the Demographic Data Form and the Modified Amputee Quality of Life Questionnaire. Data collection was carried out from November 1999 to January 2000. SPSS was used for data analysis in terms of frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation, which were used to describe the subjects' demographic data and quality of life (overall, each dimension: life satisfaction, self-concept, health and functioning and socio-economic factors). The implications of findings and recommendations are presented in this chapter.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were reached:

1. the overall quality of life of the traumatic amputees was at a moderate level.
2. life satisfaction of the traumatic amputees was at a moderate level.

3. self-concept of the traumatic amputees was at a low level.

4. health and functioning of the traumatic amputees was at a low level.

5. socio-economic status of the traumatic amputees was at a mederate level.

Implication of findings

Based on the results of this study, the following implications was found for nursing practice, nursing education, nursing research and nursing administration.

Implication for nursing practice

The results of this study can be used as basic information to increase nurses' understanding of quality of life among traumatic amputees. The results showed that traumatic amputees might experience as alteration in their quality of life. The score of life satisfaction, self-concept, health and functioning and socio-economic factors provided evidence that nurses should be concerned and provide more information and more interventions to adjust the amputatee to the loss of limb/s and try to increase their quality of life. The results will guide nurses to support amputees not only in hospital, but also in community settings and in family care. The issues of family relationship and economic constraint need to be taken into consideration in order to help to enhance the quality of life of the amputees.

Implication for nursing education

The findings of this research provide a baseline knowledge to help nurse educators to enhance students' understanding of quality of life among traumatic amputees. The results can also help clinical instructors to guide the students practice in community setting. Furthermore the results of this study also can serve as a reminder for nurse educators to take this concept into consideration when designing curriculum and developing teaching content. Nurse educators should also emphasize the role of nurses in identifying and improving the quality of life.

Implication for nursing research

The results of the research provides information on quality of life of traumatic amputees. For further nursing research, the findings can be used as a guideline for developing some programs and as a reference for further studying of the quality of life.

Implication for nursing administration

The basic information gained from this study will serve as guide for nursing administrators to understand and be aware of the quality of life among traumatic amputees. When they make policies, they should consider how to improve the quality of life among traumatic amputees.

Recommendations for further research

The results of this study provides basic information for further study on quality of life of Chinese traumatic amputees. Several suggestions for further research could be considered:

1. Replication of this study with a larger sample size and randomly selected sample from various hospitals in China is needed to advocate the generalizability of the study.

2. A longitudinal research to determine if the quality of life will change with different durations of time after amputation is needed.

3. A study of the effect of nursing intervention on improving the quality of life of the amputees through action research is needed.