ABSTRACT

Thirty-eight end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients with hemodialysis were studied concerning their ways of living related to their family responsibilities, family support, social activities, occupations, job and daily activities, sexual relations, duration of illness and hemodialysis including how to solve their renal disease. All subjects were patients who received hemodialysis therapy at Pramongkutklao Hospital. The questionnaire used in this study was modified by the researcher based on Short Form-36 Health Survey.

These results show that more than half of the patients had high satisfaction in physical well-being and most of the end-stage renal disease patients were in trouble with their high cost of medical care. It was also found that the length of time on dialysis programme and duration of illness were not related to their quality of life.

It was also seen that ESRD patients could adapt their present life. Since they were no longer normal healthy persons, they practiced the way of Buddhism to alleviate their sufferings.

The policy maker in the hospital should emphasize on health education. There should be two aspects for health education. Firstly, health education on prevention of ESRD to those patients with renal diseases should be carried out. Secondly, health education for the ESRD patients and their families to adapt with this chronic illness. The efficient health education programme will bring a new bright horizon for ESRD patients with hemodialysis and improve their quality of life.