**Thesis Title** Concerns Relating to Illness of Persons with Breast Cancer

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## **ABSTRACT**

Persons with breast cancer usually suffer from complications of disease and its treatment. These situations result in concerns relating to illness, which will stimulate persons with cancer into coping process. This descriptive study, purposed to determine the concerns relating to the person with breast cancer in the diagnostic phase based on Mullan's survival phases. (Mullan, 1985). Purposive sampling was used to select 136 subjects who were treated at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital. Research instruments consisted of the Demographic Data Record Form, was developed by the researcher, and the Inventory of Current Concerns: Patient Version questionnaire. (D. Mood, personal communication, March 15, 2004), which was translated by researcher and back translation was done. Internal reliability was tested by using Cronbach's coefficient alpha. The overall reliability was .78. Data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics.

The results revealed that:

1. The subjects had moderate level of overall concerns relating to illness with mean of 48.64 (S.D. = 9.27).

2. Considering each aspect of concerns relating to illness, ranking from the highest to lowest relative mean, were family and significant relationships concerns (relative mean .1908), work and financial concerns (relative mean .1827), self-appraisal concerns (relative mean .1546), friends and associated concerns (relative mean .1405), existential concerns (relative mean .1253), health concerns (relative mean .1042), and religion concerns (relative mean .1019), respectively.

These findings could be used as basic data for health care providers and caregivers of breast cancer patients during diagnostic phase based on Mullan's survival phases (Mullan, 1985) in order to understand their concerns and can help them to enter appropriately coping process.

