

CARE PRACTICES IN COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE  
IN THAI BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to explore perspectives of Thai breast cancer survivors and Thai nurses about care practices in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). The study used an ethnonursing method. Seventeen Thai breast cancer survivors and fifteen Thai nurses were interviewed. The transcribed interviews were analyzed using the ethnonursing analysis method. The findings showed that care practices in CAM were seen as: (1) an additional beneficial choice for health; (2) emotional and psychological healing; and (3) a powerful physical healing. Performing care practices in CAM was composed of two phrases: (1) seeking and gathering CAM information and (2) trying out many types of CAM. The influencing factors for selection CAM were: kinship and social factors, economic factors, and belief factors. Nurses should be concerned about CAM use in Thai breast cancer survivors. Open communication about CAM helps ensure that safe and holistic care is provided.