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## Correlates of illness perception in patients with acute myocardial infarction after percutaneous coronary intervention

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Despite effectiveness of percutaneous coronary intervention for patients with acute myocardial infarction, suboptimal behaviors to prevent further cardiac events have been reported. Illness perception, varying in each individual, affects the patients' behaviors. This descriptive correlational study aimed to describe the patients' illness perception and examine factors related to illness perception. Seventy patients with acute myocardial infarction after percutaneous coronary intervention were purposively recruited. Demographic and Health Related Questionnaire was used to obtain demographic and health related factors. The Brief Illness Perception Questionnaire (B-IPQ) and open-ended questions were used to capture illness perception. The test-retest reliability of the B-IPQ was examined, yielding a coefficient of .95. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze demographic and health related factors and illness perception. Spearman rank correlation was used to analyze correlation. Content analysis was used to analyze data from open-ended questions. Results illustrated that patients held strong identity, perceived the illness as chronic with severe consequences, moderate personal and treatment control. The patients also reported moderate understanding and concern, with less emotional consequences. Furthermore, results revealed that level of education was statistically significantly correlated with treatment control ( $r_s=.30$ ,  $p<.05$ ), and illness coherence ( $r_s=.30$ ,  $p<.05$ ). Other factors, including age, showed no significant contribution to illness perception. Understanding of factors related to the patients' illness perception is important. Nurses should aware the factors and recognize the variability in patients' illness perception. Research in nursing intervention to shape patients' illness perception is recommended to achieve patients' desirable outcomes.