

**Assessment of Stress and Satisfaction of
Nurses Caring of Pediatric Oncology
Patients**

Thesis

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement of Master Degree in
Pediatric Nursing*

By

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List of Abbreviation

ALLO:	Allogeneic
AML:	Acute Myeloid Leukemia
ANLL:	Acute Non Lymphocytic Leukemia
AUTO:	Autologous
BMA:	Bone Marrow Aspiration
CBC:	Complete Blood Count
CSF:	Cerebrospinal Fluid
DNA:	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
HL:	Hodgkin Lymphoma
HPA :	Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenocortical
NCI:	National Cancer Institute Of USA
NHL:	Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
PET:	Positron Emission Tomography
RBCs:	Red Blood Cells
SNS:	Sympathetic Nervous System
SPSS:	Statistical Package For Social Sciences
WHO:	World Health Organization

Assessment of Stress and Satisfaction of Nurses Caring of Pediatric Oncology Patients

Abstract

Introduction: Oncology nursing is often a source of substantial stress for nurses. Many nurses, particularly novice nurses, have inadequate preparation to care for patients at the end of life and their families. **Aim:** The study aimed to assess stress and satisfaction of nurses caring of pediatric oncology patients. **Design:** A descriptive design was utilized in carrying out this study. **Subject:** A purposive sample composed of 100 nurses worked at Pediatric Oncology Department in Children's Hospital affiliated to Ain Shams University Hospitals in Cairo and National Oncology Institute in Tanta. **Tools:** tool 1: Interviewing questionnaire sheets to assess demographic characteristics of nurses. Tool 2: Expanded Nursing Stress Scale and tool 3: Job Satisfaction Scale. **Results:** The majority of studied nurses were stressful and dissatisfied with their job. **Conclusion:** There were statistical significant differences between age and years of experience of the studied nurses and their job satisfaction and job stress level. In addition, there is a strong negative correlation between nurse's workload and their job satisfaction and their job stress level regarding care of children with cancer. **Recommendation:** Further research study is recommended to compare the compassion stress and satisfaction between oncology pediatric nurses and other health care personnel who are working with vulnerable groups of patients.

Keywords: Pediatric Oncology Patients, Satisfaction, Stress, Oncology and Pediatric Nurse.

Introduction

Pediatric oncology nurse provide presence always with the child twenty-four hours of the day and seven days of the week, comfort, help and support for children confronted with loneliness, pain, incapacity, disease and even death. These unique roles of the nurse have made nursing to regard as a caring profession. It is not surprising that nursing been known to be stressful throughout the world (**Atefi et al., 2013**).

Common constituent of the work stress include, a domain of the environment and its constituent, a domain of the individual nurse, an interaction between the two domains, an appraisal of the demand of the interaction exceeding the resources within domain of the individual resulting in a disruption of psychological and physiological homeostasis. Stress arises within the work environment, because a threat is present and perceived by the individual; the homeostasis of the individual is involved (**Rosenberg et al., 2014**).

Nurses come across the reality that health care is a stressful occupation on an everyday basis. Nurses are responsive and forbearing caregivers, and have to battle with

a diversity of work stressors, many of which result in less than effective emotional responses (**Zarshenas et al., 2014**). Heavy workload, poor staffing, dealing with death and dying, inter-staff conflict, strain of shift work, careers, and lack of resources and hospitalal support have been identified as the major sources of job stress (**Elbahnasawy et al., 2016**).

Nurses in carrying out nursing procedures exposed to many hazards, some of which are cuts and wounds from sharp instrument, exposure to secretion/body fluids from the children. Even some chemical substance used in the hospitals especially those used in chemotherapy expose the nurse to health danger (**Smolowitz et al., 2015**). The shift nature of nursing job makes nurses vulnerable to stress. The alternation of day and night shifts may create problems in adjusting to the shift timings, it can affect not only personal life but also family life, and they made to sacrifice their time with their family members, friends and others. Globally, shift work generally acknowledged as a source of stress (**Huihui et al., 2017**).

Since job satisfaction reflects nurse's perceptions of the quality of work, it may influenced by the objective working conditions, but this influence is a complex one. This

is because nurses differ in personality, emotions, and thinking process as well as in their degree of pessimism and optimism (Kılıcarslan et al., 2016).

The significance of the Study:

Assessment of stress and satisfaction of nurses caring of pediatric oncology patients are very important. As a pediatric oncology nurses like never other specialties of nursing have constantly exposed to stress, because they are subjected to harmful prognosis of cancer such as death and dying or children at the end stage and the related stressful problems in addition to the workload itself as serious illness with oncology children. If nurses feels positive satisfaction instead of dissatisfaction: they would exhibit better nursing care toward children that result in less complications. Therefore, this study will be done to asses levels of stress and satisfaction of nurses caring of pediatric oncology patients.

Aim of the Study

This study aimed to assess stress and satisfaction of nurses caring of pediatric oncology patients:

1. Assessment of stress among pediatric oncology nurses.
2. Assessment of satisfaction of pediatric oncology nurses.

Research Questions:

1. What are types of stress and satisfaction affecting nurses caring of pediatric oncology patients?
2. What are the levels of nurses' stress and satisfaction toward nursing care provided for their children?

Review of Literature

Part One

Overview about Childhood Cancer

Cancer is the generic term for a large group of diseases characterized by a rapid creation of abnormal cells that grow beyond their usual boundaries and has the ability to metastasize to other organs. While the incidence of cancer rises dramatically with age, cancer is rare amongst young adults and represents only 2 to 4% of all new cases annually worldwide (**Steliarova et al., 2017**).

Cancer cells interfere with the normal functioning of cells and are detrimental to the organism's survival. While some forms of cancer do not form a solid mass (such as leukemia), the most common quality associated with cancer is the ability to form an aggressive tumor (**Cramp and Byron-Daniel, 2014**).

Cancer Incidence

The high incidence rate and prevalence of childhood cancers in Egypt is alarming, and the survival rate is between 20% and 25%, which is very low compared to the United States and Sweden where the rates are between 85% and