

Abstract

This study aimed at investigating how the experiences of caring for dying patients affect nurses' time perspectives, social goals and psychological well-being. It was expected that nurses who regularly care for dying patients should perceive the future as more limited, and they should prioritize emotional goals if they want to stay psychologically healthy. 37 oncology nurses, who frequently encounter death, and 39 orthopedic nurses, who infrequently encounter death, were recruited as participants. No significant difference in time perspective was found between oncology and orthopedic nurses. However, oncology nurses scored significantly higher on both emotional and informational goals, and also on psychological well-being. Explanation would be based on the complex and unique nature of the work of oncology nurses.