

Abstract

Introduction: Compassion fatigue in nurses has been recognized as an important issue in the field of healthcare and professional ethics. Considering the fact that compassion fatigue affects the quality of patient care and ethical issues surrounding working with patients. Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine the relationship between compassion fatigue and moral injury in nurses of medical surgical departments.

Methods: This descriptive-analytical cross-sectional study was conducted in 2023 in educational hospitals of Ardabi city. The study population included 297 nurses from medical surgical departments of educational hospitals in Ardabil. Three questionnaires, including demographic information, Figley's Compassion Fatigue Scale, and the Moral injury Scale, were used to collect data. SPSS version 15 was used for data analysis.

Results: The results showed that the mean age of the participants in the study was 32.21 ± 5.84 years. Nurses had a mean score of 37.61 on the compassion satisfaction subscale, a mean score of 28.73 on the compassion fatigue subscale, and a mean score of 29.95 on the secondary traumatic stress subscale. The average score of moral distress among nurses was 31.19 ± 8.54 . The results showed a significant inverse relationship between compassion satisfaction and moral injury ($P < 0.001$). There was also a significant positive relationship between compassion fatigue and secondary traumatic stress with moral injury ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusion: The results of this study indicate that a high level of moral injury can lead to a decrease in the quality of nursing care, increased job turnover, decreased job satisfaction, and increased compassion fatigue. Therefore, it is recommended to

implement structured programs for nurses to reduce compassion fatigue and job turnover, including psychological empowerment, organizational support, empathy training, and attention to professional ethics principles to improve the moral injury and compassion fatigue of nurses.

Keywords: Compassion fatigue, moral injury, nurses, medical surgical departments.