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The care burden and coping levels of chronic psychiatric patients' caregivers

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Aim: This descriptive study was conducted in order to determine care burden of caregivers of chronic psychiatric patients and their levels of coping with stress.

Method: The study was conducted between February 2015 and November 2015 in a psychiatric unit of a research hospital located in the east of Turkey. The study was conducted with 134 caregivers. The following data collection tools were used: the personal information form, the Zarit burden interview (ZBI) and the styles of coping inventory (SCI). The study participants were selected from the population by using an simple random sampling method. The data were given in the median and interquartile range. Normal distribution fitness was done by Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk test. Mann-Whitney U test, Kruskal Wallis test and Spearman Correlation coefficient were used in statistical analyzes where nonparametric tests were appropriate.

Results: The average age of the caregivers was 49.95 ± 13.68 and the majority were married and primary school graduates. Caregivers are often the maternal patients. The study found that, when the social support-seeking behaviour of the caregivers decreased, their care burden increased (p<0.05).

Conclusion: This study determined that caregivers experienced a high level of burden. In this study, the high load level of care. However, while the deal with their difficulties of providing effective care (social support search and self-confident and optimistic approaches) was found to have more coping methods they use.

Biography

Erman Yıldız has expertise in psychiatric nursing. Currently, PhD student in the psychiatric nursing continue. There is a 4-year clinical history. At present, there are more than 8 years of history in the nursing profession. He is currently working as a research assistant at Inönü University Faculty of Health Sciences Psychiatric Nursing Department.

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