

# Ethical Dilemmas Encountered by Nursing Researchers in Japan

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## Introduction

Ethical dilemmas are conflicts of prioritization between two distinct ethical norms, which can hinder ethical behavior among nurse researchers. Therefore, it is essential to understand what ethical dilemmas are encountered by nurse researchers to prepare them to handle dilemmas. The purpose of this study was to clarify the ethical dilemmas encountered by nurse researchers in Japan.

## Method

901 returned from 2,111 questionnaires mailed to nursing researchers  
▼ 467 Ethical issues encountered  
▼ Extract description of about dilemmas  
35 Ethical dilemmas encountered  
Qualitative data analysis

## Results

Characteristics of Subject 31 women and 4 men,  
Workplace : 22 Educational institutions and 10 hospitals,  
Educational background : 9 doctors' degree and 22 masters' degree

## Conclusion

In the present study, three types of ethical dilemmas were identified among nursing researchers in Japan.

## A The Code of Ethics for Nurses in Japan (Excerpt from 15 CODE)

by Japanese Nursing Association, 2003

1. **Respect** human life, human dignity, **human rights**.
4. **Respect and protect the rights** of people to information and self-determination.
5. **Honor confidentiality** and strive for the protection of personal information, while using appropriate discretion in the sharing of this information.
6. **Protect and safeguard clients**, when their care is inhibited or their safety is threatened.
11. **Endeavor** to create and develop **professional knowledge and skills through research and practice**, and to contribute to the progress of nursing sciences

## B Principles of ethics in nursing practice

- Beneficence and non-maleficence
- Justice
- Autonomy
- Veracity
- Fidelity

by Sara T. Fry & Megan-Jane Johnstone: Ethics in Nursing Practice 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Blackwell, 2008.

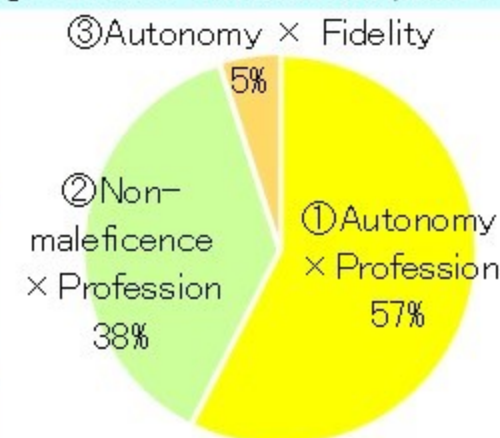


Figure1 Ethical Dilemmas by Nursing Researchers

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