The concept of moral distress in operating room nurses
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Exploring the concept of moral distress in operating room nurses

Nursing is a highly charged profession and most specialties are faced with life and death decisions leading to ethical dilemmas which can affect individuals on a day to day basis.

The research shows that moral distress can impact practice negatively such as contributing to burnout, mental and physical illness as well as premature abandoning of the profession in various nursing specialties.

Moral distress has never been studied in operating room nurses and since this specialty has to practice in an ever changing challenging environment it is worthy of exploration.

Background

Implications

Methodology

Conclusions

Denial and religion reported as a common coping mechanism.

The frequency of the experience of moral distress is predicted by the amount of religious coping reported by the subjects.

The higher the level of education, the greater the total moral distress.

OR nurses are leaving positions because of moral distress.

Moral Distress is present in OR nurses.

Coping strategies can be used to help mitigate the negative effects of moral distress.

The operating room environment impacts the experience of moral distress.

Education regarding healthy coping mechanisms and the experience of moral distress should be ongoing.

Moral distress, coping and OR environment are worthy of more study.

