



KEY WORDS

- ✓ Intensive Care Nursing
- ✓ Futile Treatment
- ✓ Empathy Fatigue
- ✓ Caring Behaviours
- ✓ Ethical Decision-Making

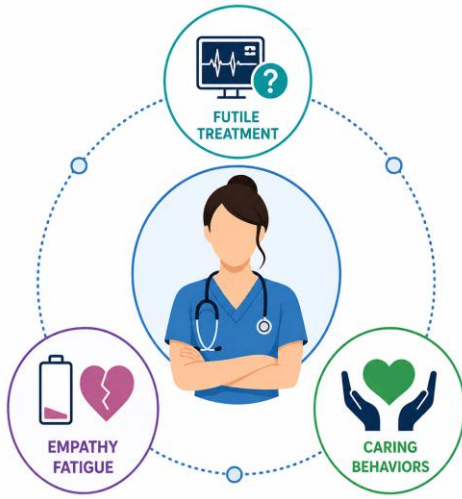
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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTENSIVE CARE NURSES' ATTITUDES TOWARD FUTILE TREATMENTS WITH EMPATHY FATIGUE, AND CARING BEHAVIORS

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THESIS ABSTRACT

This descriptive, cross-sectional study examined the relationships among intensive care nurses' attitudes toward futile treatment, empathy fatigue, and caring behaviors. Data were collected online from 286 intensive care nurses throughout Türkiye using the Nurse Information Form, ATFTS, EFS-HP, and CBI-24.

Attitudes toward futile treatment were associated with empathy fatigue, whereas the association between these attitudes and caring behaviors was limited. These findings highlight the importance of addressing empathy fatigue and strengthening nurses' involvement in treatment-related decision-making.

APPLICATION AREAS OF THE THESIS RESULTS

The findings may inform initiatives aimed at supporting intensive care nurses in managing situations involving futile treatment and enhancing their involvement in ethical decision-making. Accordingly, multidisciplinary team meetings, ethics consultation mechanisms, and protocols for identifying, evaluating, and managing futile treatment may be developed.

The findings may also guide the development of psychosocial support programs aimed at reducing empathy fatigue, as well as training programs in stress management, resilience, ethical decision-making, and end-of-life care. Structured team debriefings following challenging clinical events may contribute to improvements in the quality of care, staff well-being, and patient-centered decision-making.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1. Karabulut, T., Özgür, H., & Akça Doğan, D. "Examination of Doctoral Theses on Diabetes in the Field of Nursing in Türkiye." 16th Uludağ Internal Medicine Nursing Congress, Bursa, Türkiye, April 11, 2026 (Oral Presentation).