

ABSTRACT

Background: Attitudes of professionals towards patients with alcohol use disorder play an important role in the process of treatment and recovery, both in of addiction as such and of the comorbid diseases. Attitudes are shaped by a number of factors and formed by awareness raising and educational interventions. This thesis describes the attitudes of nurses towards people with substance use disorders in the Czech Republic and evaluates the effect of educational intervention on these attitudes.

Methodology: A longitudinal intervention study was conducted, which measured the attitudes before and after the educational intervention on a group of 40 nurses from different clinical units of the university hospital. The intervention consisted of the course that lasted 4 hours. The evaluation measurement was done 14 days before and 30 days after the intervention. The research was performed in September and October 2022.

Results: The attitudes of nurses were found ambivalent. They considered alcohol use disorder to be a disease with multifactorial etiology, but at the same time their attitudes were stigmatizing and moralizing. Negative attitudes towards patients with alcohol use disorder were result of previous non-contextualized experience. The intervention changed these attitudes. There was found an improvement especially in the understanding alcohol addiction as a chronic relapsing disease with an insight into its causes and the reduction of stigmatizing a moralizing attitude.

Conclusion: The evaluated education showed a positive effect on the attitudes of nurses towards patients with alcohol use disorder. Based on this result, it is recommended to include a course on addictions in the mandatory education of nurses and thus improve the quality of care for patients with substance use disorders.