

The profession of nurse is closely connected with very intensive psychological and physical load, especially in the intensive care units (ICU). The interesting, but very sad fact, is that the mortality in ICU units in Czech republic is about 20%. Dying of each patient is of course a very stressful situation for his relatives and also for attending doctors and nurses. These frequent stressful situations result often in psychological or physical burnout by nurses in ICU. The unpleasant consequence of burnout by nurses is very often the change of job.

The target of this thesis is to map the psychological load of nurses in ICU in czech hospitals. The target was met. The hypothesis number 1 was confirmed by the research. The hypothesis 2, 3, 4, 5 weren't confirmed. This diploma thesis has two main parts – theoretical and practical.

The practical part of this diploma thesis is the qualitative research, that was made by questionnaires, that were sent to nurses of ICU in czech hospitals. The total number of sent questionnaires was 257 – the number of answered and returned questionnaires was 210 (82%). These 210 questionnaires were used in this diploma thesis. This research was made in january and february in 2010.

The results of the research will be used in the future in czech hospitals in case of their concern. When practically used, the results of this thesis can lead to reduction of psychological and physical load of nurses in ICU.