

Abstract

The dissertation is devoted to with ethical problems faced by health professionals when caring for dying patients.

In the first chapter the issue of care for dying patients is approached, delivering insight into the history and focusing on the key criteria in the care of dying patients and their needs are presented.

In the second chapter I describe the methodological part of qualitative research which was attended by 15 nurses from standard departments, intensive care unit and anesthesiology and resuscitation department in Hospital Bulovka. The aim of the research was, through interviews with nurses, locate and describe the ethical problems that they face when caring for dying patients in the context of three different environments and in specific situations.

In the third chapter I mention commented results of the interviews which indicate that the nurses are thinking about the protection of human life in terms of its quality, dysthanasia, futile care, the difference between letting a patient die and euthanasia, autonomy, human dignity and the provision of palliative care. Particular sub-chapters consist of theoretical framing and are complemented by testimonies of respondents research and enhanced by my comment.

The main finding is that the surveyed nurses suffer from moral distress which, however, they present mainly in a series of specific objections to the decisions of doctors and ambiguous, often transformed into organizational and technical shortcomings. Moral distress is also emphasized with feelings of frustration that bind to the defined competencies of nurses.

Key words: autonomy of dying, dignity of the death, dysthanasia, euthanasia, futile care, moral distress, paliative treatment, palliative care, the quality of dying, the care of dying