

STRESS AS A FACTOR DETERMINING EVALUATION OF DEHUMANIZING BEHAVIORS

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Dehumanization is defined as aggressive behaviors e.g. judging criticizing discriminating, which offend people's dignity This phenomenon is a very severe problem in medicine which affects interpersonal relationship between medical professionals and patients their well-being and capability of following medical recommendations. Dehumanization in medicine seems to be a strategy to avoid the affective costs of helping. There are a few factors determining dehumanizing behaviors for example inhumanization perceiving patients as non-human beings compassion fatigue or stress The main goal of this study was to examine the impact of stress on the evaluations of dehumanizing behaviors A quasi-experimental survey was conducted on a group consisting of nurses. Several measures were taken during this study including the evaluation of dehumanizing behaviors (The Scale of Behavioral Indicators of Patients Dehumanization by Glebocka Wilczek-Ruzyczka), current mood (The Mood Adjective Checklist by Mathews Chamberlain Jones), empathy (Interpersonal Reactivity Index by Davis) and selected traits personality-EPQ-R. The comparative analysis between groups was conducted. The results confirmed that stress influenced the acceptance of dehumanization particularly cognitive evaluations of patient dehumanizing behaviors. These evaluations have no relationship to the personality traits: empathy, neuroticism and psychoticism in the control group. But moderate correlation between patient dehumanization and neuroticism occurred in the experimental group. The findings leads to the conclusion that stress experienced in work settings can have an effect on dehumanizing practices. One of the best ways to fight dehumanization in medicine is to reduce stress by improving.