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# Journal of Nursology

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# COVID-19 Pandemisinde Acil Servis Hemşiresi Olmak Üzerine Nitel Bir Çalışma: “Yaşam-Ölüm Çizgisi Üzerinde Dengede Kalmaya Çalışmak”

A Qualitative Study on Being an Emergency Nurse in the COVID-19 Pandemic: “Trying to Stay Balanced on the Life-Death Line”

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## ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmada amaç acil servis hemşirelerinin COVID-19 pandemisi sırasındaki algı ve deneyimlerini betimlemektir.

**Yöntemler:** Araştırma, nitel yaklaşıma dayalı içerik analizi ile yürütülmüştür. Çalışma Türkiye'nin batısındaki bir eğitim araştırma hastanesinin acil servisinde Temmuz-Aralık 2021 tarihleri arasında yapılmıştır. Amaçlı örnekleme yönteminden birisi olan ölçüt örnekleme yöntemi ile belirlenmiş 49 hemşire ile görüşülmüştür. Çalışma grubuna acil serviste çalışan, COVID-19'lu hasta bakımı yapan ve araştırmaya katılmaya gönüllü olan hemşireler dahil edilmiştir. Veriler hemşirelerin sosyo demografik özelliklerini sorgulayan sekiz soruluk tanıttıcı özellikler içeren bilgi formu ve alanyazın doğrultusunda oluşturulan yarı yapılandırılmış açık uçlu 10 sorudan oluşan veri toplama formu kullanılmıştır. Verilerin analizinde NVIVO 12 Pro programı kullanılmıştır. Veriler tematik analiz ile değerlendirilmiştir.

**Bulgular:** COVID-19 pandemisinde acil hemşiresi olarak çalışmış hemşireler ile yürütülmüş nitel soru çözümlemesine dayalı bu çalışmada beş kategoriye ulaşılmıştır. En çok atıf alandan en aza doğru kategori etiketleri ve atıf sayıları şöyledir: negatif duygulanım yansıması (f:275), zorlu çalışma koşulları (f:273), mücadelede yorgunluk (f:205), mesleğe verilmiş söz (f:112), baş etme çabaları (f:103).

**Sonuç:** Araştırma sonucunda COVID-19 sürecinde acil hemşirelerinin fiziksel ve psikolojik olarak olumsuz yönde etkilendikleri, çeşitli kişisel ve mesleki sorunlar yaşadıkları ve tüm bu olumsuzluklar ile başa çıkmada etkin yöntemler kullandıkları saptanmıştır. Hemşirelerin fiziksel ve ruhsal sağlığını geliştirmek ve sürdürmek için destek ihtiyaçları yakından izlenmeli ve destek sistemleri oluşturulmalıdır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Acil hemşiresi, nitel araştırma, COVID-19, pandemi

## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The aim of this study is to describe the perceptions and experiences of emergency nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Methods:** The research was conducted with content analysis based on a qualitative approach. The study was conducted in the emergency department of a training and research hospital in western Turkey between July and December 2021. Forty-nine nurses who were determined by the criterion sampling method, which is one of the purposeful sampling method, were interviewed. Nurses working in the emergency department, caring for patients with COVID-19, and volunteering to participate in the study were included in the study group. The data were collected using an information form consisting of 8 questions containing the socio-demographic characteristics of the nurses, and a data collection form consisting of 10 semi-structured open-ended questions was created in line with the literature. NVIVO 12 Pro program was used in the analysis of the data. The data were evaluated by thematic analysis.

**Results:** Five categories were reached in this research based on qualitative question analysis conducted with nurses who worked as emergency nurses in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The category labels and citation numbers from the most cited to the least are as follows: negative affect reflection (f:275), difficult working conditions (f:273), fatigue in the struggle (f:205), the promise of the profession (f:112), and head efforts (f:103).

**Conclusion:** As a result of the research, it was determined that emergency nurses were affected negatively physically and psychologically during the COVID-19 process, experienced various personal and professional problems, and used effective methods to cope with all these negativities. In order to improve and maintain the physical and mental health of nurses, their support needs should be closely monitored and support systems should be established.

**Keywords:** Emergency nurse, qualitative research, COVID-19, pandemic

## GİRİŞ

Koronavirüs hastalığı Aralık 2019'da Çin'in Wuhan kentinde açıklanamayan pnömonisi olan hastalardan izole edilen ve tanımlanan Şiddetli Akut Solunum Yolu Sendromu Koronavirüs 2 (SARS-CoV-2 - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2) adı verilen yeni bir tip koronavirüsünün neden olduğu bir solunum yolu enfeksiyonudur.<sup>1</sup> Bulaşma, solunum damlacıkları ve temas yoluyla gerçekleşmektedir.<sup>2</sup>

Ülkemizde ilk COVID-19 vakasının Sağlık Bakanlığı tarafından bildirildiği 10 Mart 2020 tarihinden sonra acil servislerde yoğunluk artmıştır.<sup>3</sup> Acil servisler birçok faktör yanında özellikle hastaların ilk giriş kapısı olması sebebiyle, COVID-19 bulaş riski daha yüksek olan birimlerdir. Acil servis hemşireleri pandemi sürecinde yüksek enfeksiyon riski, uzun çalışma saatleri, hasta ile yakın temas içinde bulunma, dinlenme ve mola saatlerinin bulunmaması, enfekte olma ve başkalarına bulaştırma endişesi ve öngörülemeyen iş zorluklarıyla yüzleşmek durumunda kalmıştır. Tüm bu koşullar acil hemşirelerini olumsuz yönde etkileyerek yoğun iş yükü ve duygusal stres yaşamalarına neden olmuştur.<sup>3-5</sup>

Yapılan çalışmalarda hemşirelerin önceki salgınlarda olduğu gibi COVID-19 salgınında da kurumsal destek eksikliği, kişisel koruyucu ekipman ile çalışmanın zorlukları, ekipmanları korumada yaşanan zorluklar ve fiziksel sağlık sorunları (örneğin; uykusuzluk, baş ağrısı gibi) yaşadıkları belirlenmiştir.<sup>5</sup>

Hemşirelerin enfekte olma, yakınlarına ve arkadaşlarına enfeksiyonu bulaştırma korkusu, bilinmeyen bir hastalık karşısında çaresizlik, umutsuzluk, depresyon, anksiyete ve travma sonrası stres bozukluğu yaşarken aynı zamanda "yaptığı işten gurur duyma" da tanımladıkları saptanmıştır.<sup>5-15</sup>

Literatürde özellikle diğer sağlık profesyonellerinden farklı olarak acil hemşirelerinin COVID-19 pandemisi ile ilgili algı ve deneyimleri hakkında araştırmalar bulunmaktadır.<sup>4,5,9,15</sup> Ancak yapılmış çalışmalarda ülkemizdeki nitel alandaki boşluk, öznel deneyimleri belirleme noktasında alana katkısı nedeniyle özgündür. Bu çalışma, acil servis hemşirelerinin COVID-19 pandemisi sırasındaki algı ve deneyimlerini betimlemek amacıyla yapılmıştır. COVID-19 pandemisinde hemşirelerin deneyimlerini ve pandeminin etkilerini anlamak, bu alanda çalışan hemşirelerin belirlenen konularda desteklenmeleri pandemi sürecinde yüksek kaliteli sağlık hizmeti sunmalarını sağlamak için yaşamsal önem taşımaktadır. Araştırma sonuçlarının acil servis hemşirelerinin COVID-19'a ilişkin algı ve deneyimlerinin belirlenmesine, eksikliklerin saptanarak ileriye dönük planlamaların yapılmasına

ve kanıta dayalı verilerin elde edilmesine katkı sağlayacağı düşünülmektedir.

### Araştırma Sorusu

1. Acil serviste çalışan hemşirelerin COVID-19'a ilişkin algıları nelerdir?
2. COVID-19'a ilişkin deneyimleri nelerdir?

## YÖNTEMLER

### Araştırma Tasarımı ve Örneklem

Araştırma, nitel yaklaşıma dayalı betimleyici bir çalışmadır. Bu araştırma açık uçlu sorulara ilişkin yanıtların tematik analizinin kullanıldığı nitel soru çözümlemesini içermektedir. Çalışma, Türkiye'nin batısındaki bir eğitim araştırma hastanesinin acil servisinde Temmuz-Aralık 2021 tarihleri arasında yapılmıştır. Amaçlı örneklem yönteminden birisi olan ölçüt örnekleme yöntemi ile belirlenmiş 49 hemşire ile görüşülmüştür. Bu çalışmada ölçütler; acil serviste çalışıyor olma, COVID-19'lu hasta bakımı yapma ve araştırmaya katılmaya gönüllü olma şeklinde belirlenmiştir. Örneklem büyüklüğü için veri doygunluğu temel alınmış, veriler 45. katılımcıdan itibaren tekrara başlamıştır. Ancak veri doygunluğu sağlanması noktasında tekrarlar başladıktan sonra veri toplama sürdürülmüştür. Araştırmada ölçüt örnekleme uyan 4 hemşire ile veri toplamaya devam edilmiş ve 49 hemşire ile araştırma tamamlanmıştır (n = 49).

### Veri Toplama Araçları

Veriler hemşirelerin sosyo demografik özelliklerini içeren Tanıtıcı Bilgi Formu ve alanyazın doğrultusunda<sup>4,5,9,15</sup> oluşturulan yarı yapılandırılmış açık uçlu sorulardan oluşmuş veri toplama formu kullanılmıştır.

### Tanıtıcı Bilgi Formu

Bu formda, acil servis hemşirelerinin yaş, cinsiyet, medeni durum, çocuk varlığı, öğrenim düzeyi, çalışma süresi ve mesleki özelliklerine ilişkin sekiz soru yer almaktadır.

### Veri Toplama Formu

Alan yazına dayalı yarı yapılandırılmış açık uçlu 10 sorudan oluşmuş formda yer alan soruların içerik ve anlaşılabilirliğine yönelik uzman görüşü alınmıştır. Daha sonra acil servis hemşirelerinin COVID-19 algısı ve deneyimlerinin elde edilmesine yönelik soruların anlaşılabilirliği ve işlevselliği açısından pilot uygulaması üç hemşire ile gerçekleştirilmiştir. Gerekli revizyonlar yapılmış ve pilot uygulamanın verileri analize dahil edilmemiştir. Formda yer alan bazı sorular şöyledir: "COVID-19 sürecinde hayatınızda neler değişti? Yazınız: "COVID-19'lu hastalara bakım verme hakkındaki düşünceleriniz

ve hisleriniz nelerdir?" "Şu cümleyi nasıl tamamlarsınız? Yazınız: COVID-19 sürecinde acil serviste çalışmak demek;....."

### Verilerin Toplanması

Veriler görüşme sırasında açık uçlu soruları katılımcıların yazılı yanıtlaması yoluyla elde edilmiştir. Açık uçlu sorulara yanıtlarını ayrıntılı yazılması istenmiştir.

Görüşme sürecinden önce hemşirelere çalışmanın içeriği ve elde edilen verilerin nasıl kullanılacağı hakkında bilgi verilmiştir. Hemşireler ile araştırmanın yapıldığı hastanenin acil servisinde hemşire odasında yüz yüze görüşülmüştür. Araştırma öncesinde hemşirelerden onamları alınmıştır. Görüşmeler sırasında, veri toplama araçları katılımcıya verilmiş ve kendisinin doldurması sağlanmıştır. Ayrıca katılımcının soruyu yanlış yorumladığı ya da soruyu yanıtlamakta zorlandığı durumlarda açıklamalar yapılmış, gerektiğinde bilgi verilmiş ya da ek kısa hatırlatmalar yapılmıştır. Veri toplama süreci ortalama 15-20 dakika sürmüştür.

### Verilerin Analizi

Hemşirelerin yanıtlarının analizinde önce ön okuma ve açık kodlama yapılmış, daha sonra belirli kategorilerde benzer kodlar toplanmıştır. Benzer verileri belirli temalar ve kavramlar çerçevesinde yorumlamak ve toplamak için tematik analiz yapılmıştır. Bu işlem ön okuma, nitel verilerin kodlanması, temalara erişme, yorumlama, raporlama ve verileri düzenleme şeklinde yapılmıştır.<sup>16</sup> Bu analizde kullanılan tematik analiz tekniği; belirli bir mesajın önce birimlere ayrılması ve ardından bu birimlerin kategorilere göre gruplandırılmasıdır. Özellikle bazı temalarda tümevarımsal kodlama süreci olarak nitel araştırma metodolojisinde yer alan Gömülü Yaklaşımda (Grounded Theory) tanımlanan in-vivo kodlama yapılmıştır. In-vivo kodlama terimi verinin (katılımcının ifadesi) içerisinden gelen kod ile tema etiketi oluşturulmasını ifade etmektedir.<sup>17</sup> Bulguları sunmak için kategoriye ait atıf gösteren frekans sayıları (f) ve katılımcı hemşirelerde kodlar (K) kullanılmıştır.

### Güven Duyulabilirlik

Yazarlar, nitel yaklaşımın temelindeki felsefi ilkeye uygun olarak dürüst anlatım ile önyargılarının verilere müdahale etmesi konusunda çabalarına ve tarafsızlığa vurgu yapmışlardır. Verilerin analizi NVIVO 12 Pro programında yapılmıştır. Nitel araştırmayı raporlama için alan yazında önerilen COREQ (Consolidated criteria for REporting Qualitative research) kontrol listesi kullanılmıştır.<sup>18</sup>

Araştırma ekibinde bir halk sağlığı hemşireliği, bir cerrahi hastalıkları hemşireliği alanında iki akademisyen ve acil serviste çalışan iki klinik hemşiresi bulunmaktadır. Araştırma yazarı olan klinik hemşireleri COVID-19 sürecinde acil serviste çalışmakta, aynı zamanda cerrahi hastalıkları hemşireliği alanında yüksek lisans yapmaktadır. Araştırmacıardan biri nitel veri analizi konusunda eğitim sertifikasına sahiptir. Veri toplama sürecini klinik hemşireleri katılımcılar ile görüşerek gerçekleştirmişlerdir. Alıntılarda köşeli parantez ([ ]) kullanımı, katılımcıya ait olmayan ifade olup, açıklama gösteriminde kullanılmıştır.

### Araştırmanın Etik Boyutu

Araştırma öncesinde Manisa Celal Bayar Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Sağlık Bilimleri Etik Kurulu'ndan (29.07.2020 tarih ve 20478486-486 sayılı) ve araştırmanın yapıldığı hastaneden izin alınmıştır. Çalışmaya sadece gönüllüler dahil edilmiştir. Görüşme sürecinden

önce hemşirelere çalışmanın içeriği ve elde edilen verilerin nasıl kullanılacağı hakkında bilgi verilmiştir. Hemşirelerin yazılı ve sözlü onamları alınmıştır. Çalışma sırasında görüş bildiren hemşirelerin gerçek isimleri ve bu hemşirelerin tanınmasına yol açabilecek ek bilgiler, mahremiyetin korunması etik ilkeleri çerçevesinde gizli tutulmuştur. Örneğin, K 9, Katılımcı 9'a atıfta bulunmaktadır.

## BULGULAR

### Örneklem Tanıtıcı Özellikleri (n = 49)

Araştırma örneğinde yer alan acil hemşirelerin yaş ortalaması  $28,06 \pm 6,37$  (min: 20-maks:48, Ortanca 27) yıl, 37'si (%75,5) kadın, 12'si (%24,5) erkek, 16'sı (%32,7) evli, 32'si (%65,3) bekar, 1 (%2) dul/boşanmış/ayrı yaşıyor şeklindedir. Hemşirelerin 41'inin (%83,7) çocuğu yoktur. Beş hemşire (%10,2) lise mezunu, 42'si (%85,7) lisans mezunu ve 2'si (%4,1) yüksek lisans mezunudur.

Meslekte toplam çalışma süresi  $5,31 \pm 6,43$  (min: 3 ay, maks: 28 yıl) Ortanca 2 yıl, acil serviste toplam çalışma süresi  $3,75 \pm 4,17$  (min: 3 ay, maks: 18 yıl) ortanca 2 yıl, COVID-19'lu hasta ile çalışma süresi  $12,10 \pm 9,56$  (min: 3 ay, maks: 36 ay) ortanca 7 aydır.

COVID-19 pandemisinde acil hemşiresi olarak çalışmış hemşireler ile yürütülmüş nitel soru çözümlemesine dayalı bu araştırmada beş kategoriye ulaşılmıştır. Yapılan in-vivo kodlama ile Katılımcı 3'ün görüşmede kullandığı "COVID-19 pandemisinde acil hemşiresi olmak; yaşam ölüm çizgisi üzerinde dengede kalmaya çalışmak demektir" ifadesi merkezi olgu tanımlamasında görsel kavramsal sunumda belirleyici olarak seçilmiştir. Ayrıca bu odak kategoriyi, iniş çıkışlı bir duygulanım ve çalışma yaşamını ifade eden diğer kategorilerin de destekler yapıda olduğu belirlenmiştir.

En çok atıf alandan en aza doğru kategori etiketleri ve atıf sayıları görsel (eidetic) sunumu Şekil 1'de gösterilmiştir. Bunlar: Negatif duygulanım yansıması (f:275), Zorlu çalışma koşulları (f:273), Mücadelede yorgunluk (f:205), Mesleğe verilmiş söz (f:112), Baş etme çabaları (f:103)'dir.

### Kategori 1: Negatif Duygulanım Yansıması (f:275)

Araştırmada en yüksek atıf alan bu kategori negatif duygulanım ifadelerine dayalı bir yansıma içermektedir. En çok dile getirilen duygulanım "tedirginlik, endişe, stres (f:110)" ile "korku, panik (f:101)" ifadeleridir. Bu noktada özellikle acil hemşireleri, kendisine "bulaşma (f:18)" ve başkasına "bulaştırmaya (f:30)" dair korkularını dile getirmişlerdir. Ayrıca acil hemşireleri COVID-19 hastalığına ilişkin nadiren de olsa zaman zaman "sinir, öfke, nefret (f:16)" duygularını belirtmişlerdir.

"Korkuyorum ve endişeliyim. Çünkü ailemle birlikte yaşıyorum. Onlara bulaştırma riskinden dolayı bu duygular içerisindedim." (K 42, kadın, 22 yaş, bekar, lise, acil servis deneyimi 6 ay)

"Korktum ve hala korkuyorum." (K 23, erkek, 20 yaş, bekar, lise, acil servis deneyimi 8 ay)

"Pandemi dolayısıyla COVID-19'lu hastaya baktığım için aileme, çevreme bulaştırma, taşıma riskimden dolayı endişeliydim" (K 47, kadın, 29 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 4 yıl)

"Acil hemşiresi olmak demek, ..." cümlesini "sürekli gelen her hastaya şüpheli yaklaşmak demek" şeklinde tamamlamış Katılımcı 44 bu kategori ile ilgili şunları söylemiştir:



**Şekil 1.** COVID-19 Pandemisinde Acil Servis Hemşiresi Olmak Olgusu: "Yaşam ölüm çizgisi üzerinde dengede kalmaya çalışmak" Ulaşılan kategoriler ve frekans sayıları (n = 49).

"Kendimden değil ama etrafımdakilere bulaştırma korkusu yaşıyorum." (K 44, kadın, 24 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 5 ay)

"Korku ve endişe hissediyorum... Hastalarla temastan sonra kendinde de Covid olabileceği korkusu ve aileye de ya da etrafa da bulaştırma korkusu" (K 41, kadın, 23 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 6 ay)

"İnsanların dikkatsiz olması sinirlerimi bozuyor. Aslında hasta olmamaları kendi ellerinde ama bunu önemsemiyorlar." (K 38, kadın, 20 yaş, bekar, lise, acil servis deneyimi 8 ay)

"Hastalara bakım verirken dışarıda maskesiz gezen, sosyal mesafeye uymayan, insanları düşünüp sinirleniyorum." (K 6, kadın, 24 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 3 ay)

"Korku ve tedirginlik duyuyorum. Aynı zamanda iş yükümüzü artırdığı için [Covid-19 duyunca] öfke duyuyorum." (K 1, kadın, 31 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 7 ay)

### Kategori 2: Zorlu Çalışma Koşulları (f:273)

Araştırmada diğer yüksek atıf almış bu kategori, COVID-19 hastalığı ile mücadele sırasında acil hemşirelerinin değişen duruma ilişkin çalışma koşullarındaki zorluğu ve sıkıntılı şartları ifade etmektedir. Bu kategori altında acil hemşireleri "koruyucu ekipman kullanımı (f:128)" kaynaklı ifadeleri çok sık dile getirmişlerdir. Koruyucu ekipman kullanımındaki giyip çıkartma, hazırlık, süre uzunluğu gibi zorluklar yanında "zor ve sıkıntılı çalışma, rahat nefes almadan, kötü çalışma şartları (f:80)" şeklinde koruyucu ekipmanla çalışmanın zorluğunu ifade etmişlerdir. Yine acil hemşireleri zorlu çalışma koşullarının "yoğun çalışma, iş yükü artışı, ekstra birimlerin açılması (f:65)" nedenleriyle geliştiğini bildirmişlerdir.

"Hasta bakımında tulum, bone, maske kullanımında zorluklar yaşadım. Alanlarda klima açılması yayılma açısından yasaktı. Tulumların içinde sıcakta çok terledim ve bu çalışırken beni çok zorladı. Sürekli maske kullanımı ve enfekte olması durumunda eksik olması nedeniyle bazen değişimde sıkıntı yaşadım." (K 36, kadın, 25 yaş, bekar, lise, acil servis deneyimi 4 ay)

"Daha önceleri rahattık. Şimdi koruyucu ekipmanlar ile çalışmak çok zor. Hayatımızı engelliyor. Hiçbir alana rahat dokunamıyoruz. Bu ekipmanlarla çalışırken nefes alamıyoruz. Gözlükler buğulanıyor ve çalışmayı engelliyor." (K 42, kadın, 22 yaş, bekar, lise, acil servis deneyimi 6 ay)

"Hiçbir şekilde maskesiz çalışmıyoruz. Daha önceden rahattık. Koruyucu ekipmanlar (maske, önlük vb.) bizi terletiyor. Maskeler yüzümüzde iz bırakıyor.. Kulak arkaları acıyor." (K 41, kadın, 23 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 6 ay)

"Acil hemşiresi olmak demek, ..." cümlesini "her hastaya [COVID-19 pozitif] şüpheli gözle bakmak" (K 2) ve "ölümle burun buruna çalışmak" (K 38) ve de "çok zorluklarla mücadele etmek" (K 30) şeklinde tamamlamışlardır.

"Daha çok çalıştım." (K 23, erkek, 20 yaş, bekar, lise, acil servis deneyimi 8 ay)

"Çalışma şekli değişti. Hastanede pandemi alanları oluşturuldu. COVID-19 alanları oluşturuldu. Maske, önlük zorunlulukları geldi." (K 10, kadın, 29 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 2,5 yıl)

### Kategori 3: Mücadelede Yorgunluk (f:205)

Araştırmada yüksek atıf almış ilk üç kategori arasında olan mücadelede yorgunluk kategorisi, bu süreci deneyimleyen acil hemşirelerince dile getirilmiş yorgunluğu anlatan ifadeleri içermektedir. Acil hemşireleri kendilerinin "tükenmişlik, bıkkınlık, ücret azlığı, işe gelmeme isteği, yorgunluk (f:60)" içerisinde olduklarını, "sosyal yaşam kısıtlılığı, insanlarla iletişim azlığı (f:57)" ve "hastalığı, tedaviyi, izolasyonu reddeden hasta/yakını (f:28)" ile mücadelede yorulduklarını ifade etmişlerdir. Katılımcı 3'e ait in-vivo kodlamada alt kategori etiketi olan "Her şey değişti: Belirsizlik ve mecburiyet (f:26)" almış zorunda olduklarını içeren alıntılara sahiptir. Ayrıca acil hemşireleri "yalnızlık, çaresizlik, aileden ayrı yaşam (f:22)" ile "koruyucu ekipman yetersizliği (f:12)" yüzünden COVID-19 pandemisindeki yorgunluklarına vurgu yapmışlardır.

"Tükenmişlik yaşıyorum, hastaneye gitmek istemiyorum. Şu an tükenmişlik hissediyorum." (K 19, kadın, 28 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 2 yıl)

"Acil hemşiresi olmak demek, ..." cümlesini "hayattan alınan zevkin bitmeye başlaması demek" (K 46), "çok düşük döner sermaye ödemesiyle çok fazla COVID hastasıyla temas demek" (K 32) ve "bütün dünyanın yükünü [ben] çekiyordum gibi" (K5) şeklinde tamamlamışlardır.

"Hastanın korku ve endişeli oluşu tedavide zorluklara sebep oluyor. Maskeyle olmak hastanın sizi anlamasını zorlaştırıyor. Solunum sıkıntısı çeken hastaların tedaviye uyum sorunu yaşamaları nedeniyle tedavi yapmanın ve takibinin zor olması... Hastaların maskeye uyum sağlamaması nedeniyle bulaş yaşama riskinden dolayı [korku ve tedirginliğim oldu]" (K 47, kadın, 29 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 4 yıl)

"Bazı hastalar olayın ciddiyetinde değiller, maske takmak istemiyorlar, bu bizi riske sokuyor. Maske konusunda hasta ve yakınları ile gereksiz polemik yaşanıyor (maske takmak istemiyorlar) ... Hastalar konuşmaya başlarken maskesini çıkartıp konuşuyorlar." (K 40, erkek, 46 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 18 yıl)

"Mecburiyet olarak bakıyorum" (K 37, kadın, 42 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 8 ay)

"Ekipman, malzeme eksikliğinden kaynaklı ufak tefek sorunlar [ile karşılaştım]." (K 35, erkek, 31 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 7 ay)

"Malzeme eksikliği." (K 33, kadın, 23 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 6 ay)

#### Kategori 4: Mesleğe Verilmiş Söz (f:112)

Atıf alan dördüncü sıradaki kategori etiketi, in-vivo kodlamadan 42 yaşında, kadın, evli, lisans mezunu olan 17 yıldır hemşirelik yapan Katılımcı 37'ye ait "Meslek gereği yapmakla yükümlüyüz, verilmiş bir söz var" şeklindeki ifadeden oluşturulmuştur. Meslek adına atıfta bulunan bu kategori altında tabii ki COVID-19 pozitif ya da değil "her hasta profesyonel bakım almalıdır (f:22)" ancak bulaş için riskli görünen ve "korkutan işlemler (f:74)" vardır. Bunlar; entübasyon (f:26), aspirasyon (f:20), ağız bakımı/yemek yedirmek (f:8), temas (f:8), diğer (ambu, O<sub>2</sub>, damar yolu, inhaler, kan alma) (f:12) olarak bildirilmiştir. Profesyonel bakım sürdürme noktasında acil hemşireleri bulaş riskini kontrol etme noktasında "hastayla temas süresini azaltma (f:16)" yı uyguladıklarını söylemişlerdir.

"Hastaların hakları ve almaları gereken bakım ve tedavileri doğrultusunda koruyucu önlemler alınarak yapılmalıdır." (K 25, kadın, 20 yaş, bekar, lise, acil servis deneyimi 6 ay)

"Profesyonel bir şekilde gururlu ve onurlu bir şekilde insanlığa hizmet etmek beni mutlu ediyor." (K 17, erkek, 27 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 2 yıl)

"Evet zorlu bir süreç ama benim görevim "bakım vermek" ve bunu da en iyi düzeyde yapmak için buradayım." (K 24, kadın, 24 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 8 ay)

"Bakım verirken empati kuruyorum. Hem ekipmanlarım ile kendimi, koruyorum, hem de onları dışlamadan bakım vermeye çalışıyorum." (K 4, kadın, 28 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 9 ay)

"Entübasyon sırasında özellikle aspirasyon işlemlerinde riskiniz daha çok artıyor ve bu bize zorluk yaratıyor. Aspirasyon ve

entübasyonda bulaş riski arttığı için korku ve tedirginlik yaşıyorum." (K 46, kadın, 24 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 1 yıl)

"Entübasyon sırasında damlacık yayılımı fazla olduğu için evet biraz tedirgin oluyorum." (K 24, kadın, 24 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 8 ay)

"Hastaya daha yakın temaslarda daha dikkatli şekilde (tüm koruyucu ekipmanlarla) daha kısa sürede hızlı şekilde yapıp teması olabildiğince en aza indirmek... Entübasyonlarda aspire ederken temas etmek." (K 42, kadın, 22 yaş, bekar, lise, acil servis deneyimi 6 ay)

"...standart prosedürü uygulayıp hastaya gerekli işlemleri yapıyorum." (K 31, erkek, 31 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 5 ay)

#### Kategori 5: Başetme Çabaları (f:103)

COVID-19 pandemisinde acil hemşiresi olarak çalışmış/çalışan hemşireler bu süreçte baş etme için "etkin çabalar (f:52)" sergilediklerini, örneğin; sakin ortamlarda dinlenme, destek alma, ekip işbirliği ve desteği, müzik dinleme, öfke kontrolü, özel insan/aile/arkadaş desteği, stresi yönetme, dikkat odağı değiştirme, derin nefes egzersizleri vb. gibi uygulamalarından söz etmişlerdir. Ayrıca acil hemşireleri artık "kriz yönetimi bilen, alışmış, rahat, güvenli, temkinli, sakin, bilinçli yaklaşım (f:51)" sergilediklerini ifade etmişlerdir.

"Başta çok korkuyordum. Ama artık özgüvenli yaklaşım, korunarak hastaya daha rahat giriyorum." (K 14, kadın, 36 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 2,5 yıl)

"Daha dikkatli, daha düzenli ve koordineyiz." (K 43, erkek, 21 yaş, evli, lise, acil servis deneyimi 5 ay)

"İlk anda belirsizliğin verdiği bir korku yaşamıştım, ama şu an belirsizlikler kalkıp algoritmalar oluşturulunca korkum azaldı ve kriz yönetiminde kendimi daha yeterli hissetmeye başladım." (K 2, kadın, 24 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 7 ay)

"Korkarak yaklaştım, sanki koruyucu ekipmanımın yetersiz geleceğini ve hemen bana bulaşacağını düşündüm. Şimdi daha temkinli ve daha sakinim" (K 40, erkek, 46 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 18 yıl)

"Daha önce yaptığım tüm aktiviteleri ya minimum insanla ya da tek başıma yapıyorum artık. Bu dönemde spor yapmak hem fiziksel hem ruhsal sağlığım için çok etkili bir baş etme yöntemi oldu." (K 39, kadın, 31 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 8,5 yıl)

"Sosyal hayatımı renklendirmeye çalışıyorum. Kafa dağıtıcı aktiviteler yapıyorum." (K 30, kadın, 23 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 5 ay)

"Derin nefes egzersizleri yapmaya çalışıyorum. Sevdiklerimle farklı görüşme yöntemleri keşfetmeye başladım. Her ne kadar yeterli gelmese de bu süreci fedakârlık yapmadan atlatamayacağız maalessen." (K 24, kadın, 24 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 8 ay)

"Hayata bakış açım değişti. Kendimi motive edici uğraşlar bularak motivasyonumu arttırmaya çalışıyorum Motivasyonumu arttıracak aktiviteler yapıyorum." (K 22, kadın, 37 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 3 yıl)

"Ekip dayanışması, iş birliği ve aile desteği sayesinde baş ediyorum." (K 21, kadın, 27 yaş, evli, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 2 yıl)  
"[Profesyonel] Destek alıyorum." (K 17, kadın, 25 yaş, bekar, lisans, acil servis deneyimi 2 yıl)

## TARTIŞMA

COVID-19 sürecinde acil serviste çalışan hemşirelerin algı ve deneyimlerinin betimlenmesinin amaçlandığı bu çalışmada odak kategori "COVID-19 pandemisinde acil servis hemşiresi olmak olgusu" üzerinden çözümlenmiştir. COVID-19 sürecinde acil serviste çalışan hemşirelerin hem fiziksel hem de psikolojik olarak olumsuz yönde etkilendiği belirlenmiştir. Hemşireler en çok tedirginlik, endişe, stres ve korku, panik yaşadıklarını ifade etmişlerdir. Özellikle kendisine bulaşma ve başkalarına bulaştırma korkusu hissetmişlerdir. Acil hemşireleri salgın sırasında uzun çalışma saatleri ve hastalar ile yakın teması nedeniyle yüksek enfeksiyon riskiyle karşı karşıya kalmıştır. Virüsle enfekte olma korkusu, acil hemşirelerinin COVID-19 sürecindeki deneyiminde önemli stres kaynaklarından biridir.<sup>5,15</sup> Literatürde acil servislerin hastaların ilk başvurdukları birimler olması, COVID-19 şüphesi olan bazı hasta ve yakınlarının başlıca şikayetlerini ve seyahat geçmişlerini gizlemeleri izolasyona alınma sürecini geciktirerek hemşirelere, diğer hastalara ve ailelerine bulaş riskini yükselttiği belirtilmiştir.<sup>15</sup> Yapılan çalışmalarda da sağlık profesyonellerinin, aileleri ve onların COVID-19'a karşı güvenliği konusunda ciddi endişe yaşadıkları ve ailelerinden fiziksel olarak uzak durmaya çalıştıkları, bu süreçte çocukları ve aile üyeleri ile yeterince zaman geçirememeye ve aile içindeki rollerini yerine getirememeye bağlı stres yaşadıkları bildirilmiştir.<sup>19-22</sup> Ayrıca hemşireler bu dönemde mesleki öz bilinç ile pandemi kontrol politikalarına uymuş, bilinçli olarak aile üyeleri ile teması azaltmış ve fiziksel olarak uzak durmaya çalışmıştır.<sup>23,24</sup> Aynı zamanda bazı hemşireler bulaş korkusu nedeniyle pandemi sürecinde ailelerinden uzakta, farklı bir yerde yaşamıştır.<sup>25</sup> Yapılan diğer çalışmalarda benzer sonuçlar elde edilmiştir.<sup>13,15,26,27</sup>

Çalışmada acil hemşireleri zorlu çalışma koşullarına bağlı yorgunluk yaşadıklarını ifade etmiştir. Hemşirelik pandemi sürecinde kişisel koruyucu ekipman (KKE) giyme, virüsü yayma konusunda endişe ve öngörülemez iş zorluklarıyla baş etmek zorunda kalan meslekler arasındadır. Pandemi kontrolüne ilişkin bilgilerin sürekli güncellenmesi de acil hemşirelerinin iş yükünü artırmıştır. Güvenlikle ilgili belirsizlik, destek eksikliği, acil bakım organizasyonu ve departmanlar arası iletişim ihtiyacı ve KKE talebi diğer ön saflardaki sağlık personelinin olumsuz yönde etkilemiş ve stres düzeylerini yükseltmiştir.<sup>6,13,15,26,27</sup> Literatürde COVID-19 hastalarına bakım veren hemşirelerin yoğun çalışma, tükenmişlik, ücret azlığı, yalnızlık, çaresizlik, aileden ayrı yaşama ve koruyucu ekipman eksikliğinden kaynaklanan fiziksel ve psikolojik yorgunluk hissettikleri ancak bakım vermeye devam ettikleri belirlenmiştir.<sup>14,28</sup> Yapılan çalışmalarda sağlık çalışanlarının COVID-19 pandemisi sırasında tükenmişliğin yanı sıra, depresyon, kaygı, travma sonrası stres bozukluğu, psikolojik sıkıntı, uyku bozuklukları, uykusuzluk ve korku gibi başka olumsuz psikolojik sonuçlar da yaşadığı saptanmıştır.<sup>12,29,30</sup> Acil hemşirelerinin algıladıkları stres düzeyini azaltmaya yönelik olarak; etkin enfeksiyon kontrolü, kişisel koruyucu önlemler, iş yükünün azaltılması, hemşire sayısının artırılması, vardiya sistemi ile çalışma saatlerinin azaltılması, baş etme mekanizmalarının güçlendirilmesi, psikolojik danışma ve rehberlik hizmetlerinin sunulması ve kurumsal politikalarda açık olarak uygulanacak stratejiler ve protokoller uygulanması yararlı olabilir.

Çalışmada hemşirelerin tükenmişlik, bıkkınlık, ücret azlığı, iş gelmemeye isteği, yorgunluk hissettikleri belirlenmiştir. Hastaların, meslektaşların ve aile üyelerinin olumsuz duyguları, hemşirelerde benzer duyguları tetikleyip, algılanan stresi yükselterek duygusal tükenmeye karşı daha savunmasız hale getirebilmektedir.<sup>31</sup> Zor

koşullar altında hemşireler, tükenmişliğe bağlı verimlilik düşmesi, tıbbi hatalara ve hasta bakım eksikliğine yol açabilecek ciddi psikolojik ve zihinsel sorunlar yaşamaktadır.<sup>32</sup> Ayrıca KKE ile hastalara uygulanan hemşirelik girişimlerinin hasta ve hemşire arasındaki terapötik ilişkiyi engellendiği bildirilmiştir.<sup>4</sup> Hsu ve arkadaşlarının (2021) çalışmasında da acil hemşirelerinin KKE'dan rahatsız olduğu, giyme ve çıkarma işlemlerinin zaman aldığı belirtilmiştir. Aynı zamanda çalışmada KKE kullanılması nedeniyle mesafenin ve artan konuşma hacminin, hastalar ve hemşireler arasındaki iletişimde zorluklar yaratabileceği bildirilmiştir.<sup>5</sup> Bu zorluk, acil hemşireleri ile hasta veya aile bireyleri arasındaki etkileşimde gerginliğe neden olmakta ve acil servis hemşirelerinin iş yükünü artırmaktadır. Yapılan çalışmalarda hemşirelerin yaşanan tüm bu zorluklara rağmen büyük bir özveri ile hasta bakım uygulamalarından vazgeçemedikleri ve bakım davranışı gösterdikleri saptanmıştır.<sup>14,28,33</sup> Bu çalışmada da hemşireler mesleğe verilmiş sözleri nedeniyle hasta bakımını aksatmadıklarını bildirmiştir. Hemşire yöneticileri hastane ve sağlık yöneticileri, ön saflardaki hemşirelerin endişelerini daha iyi anlamalı, hemşirelerin sahip olduğu olumsuz duyguları azaltmak için zihinsel sağlık destekleri sağlamalı ve hemşirelerin gelecekteki salgınlarda belirsizlikle başa çıkmalarına yardımcı olacak yollar belirlemelidir.

Çalışmada hemşireler COVID-19 sürecinde yaşadıkları zorluklar ile baş etmede sakin ortamlarda dinlenme, destek alma, ekip iş birliği ve desteği, müzik dinleme, öfke kontrolü, özel insan/aile/arkadaş desteği, stresi yönetme, dikkat odağı değiştirme, derin nefes egzersizleri vb. gibi uygulamaları kullandıklarını ifade etmiştir. Yapılan çeşitli araştırmalarda COVID-19 pandemisi sırasında güçlü bir sosyal destek ağının sağlık çalışanları arasında yalnızlık ve dayanıksızlık duygularını azaltabileceğini göstermektedir.<sup>12,32,34,35</sup> Hemşireler ile yapılan nitel bir çalışmada hemşirelerin duruma psikolojik olarak uyum sağlamak için kaçınma, izolasyon, spekülasyon, mizah, öz bilinç ve diğer psikolojik savunma mekanizmalarını kullandıkları, bununla birlikte stresi azaltmak ve zihinsel sağlığı iyileştirebilmek için nefes egzersizleri müzik, meditasyon, farkındalık gibi diğer yöntemleri uyguladıkları belirlenmiştir.<sup>12</sup> Bazı çalışmalarda da hemşirelerin sosyal medyayı yoğun duygusal rahatsızlıklarını ve fiziksel semptomlarını paylaşmak için kullandıkları saptanmıştır.<sup>8,36</sup> Hemşirelerin pandemi sürecinde kullandıkları baş etme yöntemlerinin bilinmesi sürece uyumunu kolaylaştırmak için yapılacak planlamalara katkı sağlayarak hemşirelerin ruhsal iyilik halinin sürdürülmesinde yararlı olabilir.

### Araştırmanın Sınırlılıkları

Yarı yapılandırılmış sorulardan oluşan veri toplama aracı ile planlanan araştırmada, veri toplama sürecinde veri doygunluğuna ulaşılan kadar devam ettirilmesine özen gösterilmiştir. Ancak bu süreçte acil servisin çok yoğun ve hasta sirkülasyonunun fazla olması nedeniyle zaman açısından sorunlar yaşanmıştır. En önemli kısıtlılık olan veri toplama yönteminde olup, bireysel derinlemesine görüşmeler COVID-19 pandemisi sebebiyle izolasyon önlemleri kapsamında gerçekleştirilememiştir. Bu nedenlerle nitel araştırma yaklaşımlarından bir desene dayalı çözümlenme yapılamamış olması kısıtlılık olarak değerlendirilebilir. Bu bağlamda veri çözümlenmesi sürecinde açık uçlu soruların nitel analizi, tümevarımsal bir yaklaşım çerçevesinde gerçekleştirilmiştir.

Araştırma sonucunda COVID-19 sürecinde acil hemşirelerinin fiziksel ve psikolojik olarak olumsuz yönde etkilendikleri, çeşitli kişisel ve mesleki sorunlar yaşadıkları ve tüm bu olumsuzluklar ile başa çıkmada etkin yöntemler kullandıkları betimlenmiştir.

Hemşirelerin fiziksel ve ruhsal sağlığını geliştirmek ve sürdürmek için destek ihtiyaçları yakından izlenmeli ve destek sistemleri oluşturulmalıdır. Ayrıca çalışma koşulları ve özlük haklarının iyileştirilmesi hemşirelerin fiziksel ve psikolojik açıdan iyileşmesini, yaşam kalitesinin artmasını, hasta bakım kalitesinin yükselmesini ve pandemi yönetimini olumlu yönde etkileyebilir.

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# The Effects of Inhaler Training on Self-Efficacy in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Patients

## Kronik Obstrüktif Akciğer Hastalarına Verilen İnhaler Eğitiminin Öz-Etkililiğe Etkisi

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study investigated the effects of 3 different inhaler use training methods on the self-efficacy of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients.

**Methods:** Between December 2017 and November 2018, a quasi-experimental study with a pre-test and posttest was conducted with 120 patients in a public hospital. The patients were divided into 3 groups according to their training methods. Data were collected using a patient information form, an inhaler use checklist, and the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Self-Efficacy Scale. The first group was trained using the show and perform method, the second group watched videos on inhaler use, and the third group was trained using a sample training material. After each training session, the participants were observed using inhalers to evaluate their performance.

**Results:** The differences between the mean pretest and posttest Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Self-Efficacy Scale total scores and subscale scores of the groups were statistically significant ( $P < .05$ ). In terms of the types of inhalers, the users of pressurized metered-dose inhalers had the lowest mean scores (group 1:  $5.8 \pm 1.6$ , group 2:  $5.1 \pm 1.1$ , group 3:  $5.0 \pm 1.1$ ). There was a significant increase in the use of the pressurized metered-dose inhaler, Aerolizer, HandiHaler, and Diskus ( $P < .05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Inhalation training given to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients using 3 different methods increased their self-efficacy, but there was no significant difference between the training groups.

**Keywords:** COPD, inhalers, self-efficacy

### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmada, KOAH hastalarına üç farklı yolla verilen inhaler eğitiminin öz-etkililiğe etkisi araştırıldı.

**Yöntemler:** Çalışma Aralık 2017-Kasım 2018 tarihleri arasında bir devlet hastanesinden 120 hasta ile ön test son test düzeninde yarı deneysel olarak yürütüldü. Hastalar eğitim yöntemlerine göre üç gruba ayrıldı. Veriler hasta tanıtım formu, inhaler kullanım kontrol listesi ve KOAH öz-etkililik ölçeği ile toplandı. Birinci gruba gösterip yaptırma, ikinci gruba video izletilmesi ve üçüncü gruba örnek eğitim materyali ile eğitim verildi. Her eğitim seansı sonrasında katılımcıların inhaler kullanımını gözlemlendi.

**Bulgular:** Eğitim öncesi ve sonrası gruplar arası KOAH Öz-etkililik ölçek toplam ve alt boyutları ortalamaları karşılaştırıldığında her üç grupta da eğitim sonrası öz-etkililik toplam puanı ve alt boyut ortalamasındaki artışın istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu saptanmıştır ( $P < .05$ ). Eğitim öncesi ve sonrası inhaler puan ortalamalarına bakıldığında en düşük puan ortalamasının ölçülü doz inhaler kullanıcılarına ait olduğu bulunmuştur (1.grup:  $5,8 \pm 1,6$ , 2.grup:  $5,1 \pm 1,1$ , 3.grup:  $5,0 \pm 1,1$ ) Eğitim sonrasında ölçülü doz inhaler, aerolizer, handihaler ve discus kullanım basamaklarında anlamlı artış olmuştur ( $P < .05$ ).

**Sonuç:** KOAH' lı bireylere üç farklı yolla verilen inhaler eğitiminin öz-etkililik ortalamalarını arttırdığı ancak eğitim yolları arasında fark olmadığı saptanmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** KOAH, inhaler, öz-etkililik

## INTRODUCTION

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a common and treatable disease characterized by respiratory symptoms and air-flow restriction caused by significant exposure to noxious particles or gases. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a disease with high mortality and morbidity rates globally.<sup>1</sup> In Turkey, 35 331 people died from respiratory diseases.<sup>2</sup>

Bronchodilators are the first option for the treatment of COPD, and the use of inhalers is the most common bronchodilator therapy for COPD patients. Inhalers deliver medication directly to the lungs.<sup>3,4</sup> Pressurized metered-dose inhalers (pMDIs), dry powder inhalers, and nebulizers are widely used for the treatment of COPD.<sup>3</sup> However, the pMDI is the most common inhaler.<sup>4</sup> Many patients, especially elderly ones, use inhalers incorrectly, mostly because there are different types of inhalers with different steps and ways of drug delivery that require critical skills.<sup>5,6</sup>

Research has shown that a large number of patients misuse inhalers.<sup>3,4,7,8</sup> Common errors in inhaler use are not breathing out before inhaling, not inhaling at the right speed, and not holding the breath for a certain period after inhaling.<sup>4,9-11</sup> The incorrect use of inhalers might result in the deposition of the medication in the oropharynx, overdose, unresponsiveness to treatment, an increase in symptoms and complications, increased mortality and morbidity rates.<sup>5,7,9</sup> The incorrect use of inhalers also leads to an increase in the frequency of attacks and overcrowding in emergency departments and hospitals, resulting in a rise in healthcare costs.<sup>3</sup> Errors in inhaler use may be reduced by different training methods which take individual differences into account (age, sex, learning speed, education level). According to Edgar Dale's Cone of Experience, people learn 83% of what they see, 11% of what they hear, 3.5% of what they smell, 1.5% of what they touch, and 1% of what they taste.<sup>12,13</sup>

In the general sense, self-efficacy is the individual's self-belief and self-perception.<sup>14</sup> Self-efficacy is one of the perception factors that are effective in the individual's behaviors. Nurses' possession of knowledge related to self-efficacy is important in guiding these perception factors in the positive or negative direction, especially in creating positive behaviors.<sup>15</sup> The COPD-specific symptoms reduce the physical activities of patients, reducing their quality of life, self-belief, and exhaustion. Therefore, the self-efficacy of these patients decreases.<sup>16-18</sup> Individuals with high self-efficacy learn more easily.<sup>14</sup> In this sense, the correct use of inhalers will reduce patients' dyspnea, increase their self-sufficiency, the effectiveness of the treatment, and thus self-efficacy.<sup>19</sup>

The literature review conducted in this study revealed no studies in Turkey in which the effects of inhaler training on self-efficacy were examined in COPD patients. In the international literature, studies were found about self-management interventions in inhaler training and self-efficacy in COPD.<sup>20,21</sup>

### Aim

This study was conducted as a quasi-experimental study with a pretest and posttest design to examine the effects of inhaler training provided with 3 different methods on the self-efficacy of COPD patients.

### Hypotheses

**H0:** Inhaler training provided with the *show and perform*, *video*, and *sample training material* methods does not have any effect on the self-efficacy of COPD patients.

**H1:** Inhaler training given to COPD patients with the *show and perform*, *video*, and *sample training material* methods affects patients' self-efficacy.

## METHODS

### Design

The study was conducted in a quasi-experimental type because the patients were hospitalized for a short time, it was easier to apply, and blinding and randomization were not appropriate. The quasi-experimental research design is easy to implement, inexpensive, and provides effectiveness in a short time.<sup>22,23</sup> This study was conducted with a quasi-experimental design, a pretest and a posttest in a public hospital's Chest Diseases clinic between December 2017 and November 2018.

### Population and Dataset

Considering the 35% difference in the study, the total number of samples to be included in the study was determined as 55 as a result of the power analysis performed with an error level of 0.05 and a power of 80%.<sup>9</sup> Considering the possibility of increasing the effect size and the possibility of loss, 40 people were included in each group and the research was completed with a total of 120 people. A total of 139 patients were reached, and 120 patients who met the criteria constituted the sample of the study (response rate 86.33%).

Patients who were older than 18 years of age, had no communication problems and had no psychiatric disease, had COPD, had used an inhaler for at least 6 months, and agreed to voluntarily participate in the study were included. Asthma patients using inhalers were excluded from the study.

### Data Collection Tools

A patient information form, an inhaler use checklist, and the COPD Self-Efficacy Scale were used face-to-face to collect the data.

### Patient Information Form

The form consisted of 19 questions to learn about the sociodemographic characteristics of the patients, their use of inhalers, and their educational status.

### Inhaler Use Checklist

The checklist included the steps of using a pMDI, Aerolizer, Diskus, and HandiHaler. For each drug use, 10 steps were created based on the literature.<sup>4,9,10,24</sup> The patients were asked to use the inhaler device, and the charts were filled by observation. Correctly performed steps were marked as "Yes," while incomplete, incorrect, or not performed steps were marked as "No."

### Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Self-Efficacy Scale

It consists of 34 items and 5 subscales that determine the ability of COPD patients to cope with respiratory distress during their general activities. A validity and reliability study of the scale was conducted in Turkey by Kara and Mirici<sup>14</sup>, who found the test-retest reliability of the scale as  $r=0.89$  and its internal consistency as 0.94 in 100 COPD patients. The items that make up the scale start with "How confident are you in this situation to manage or prevent shortness of breath." The Likert-type scale is scored between very safe=5 and unsafe=1. Higher scores indicate a higher degree of safety in managing or avoiding breathing difficulties.<sup>14</sup> The Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the current study was found to be 0.82.

The patients were divided into 3 groups according to their training methods. Homogeneity was achieved by matching groups for age, sex, and inhaler types.

The distribution of the patients into the groups is shown in Figure 1. For the content of the training, the purpose and usage steps of the inhalers used by the patients were determined.

### Data Collection

The first group was given training by showing the stages of use of the inhaler with a placebo inhaler and then having the patient perform the steps. The second group was given training by having them watch a video showing the stages of use of the inhaler taken by the researcher. The third group was trained with a colored material showing the steps of using the inhaler, which we call the Sample Training Material consisting of a single page. Training was continued until the patient was able to perform the inhaler usage steps completely correctly (in an average of 15 minutes for each patient).

To avoid differences based on the implementer's style between the groups, the training sessions were provided by the same

researcher for all 3 groups. The difference between groups in education levels did not affect self-efficacy and inhaler use.

At the end of the study, a training booklet including information on the stages of COPD, COPD symptoms, and inhaler use was given to the patients to utilize after their involvement in the study. Expert opinion was obtained from 4 internal medicine nursing specialists for the Inhaler Use Checklist, inhaler training video, sample training material, and booklet used in the study.

### Nursing Intervention

The meeting day was considered the first day of work. After obtaining verbal and written consent, the Patient Information Form, Inhaler Use Checklist, and COPD Self-Efficacy Scale were applied.

After applying the forms as the pretest, inhaler training was provided to the patients. The training continued on the third and fifth days. On the sixth day, after the training, the Inhaler Use Checklist and COPD Self-Efficacy scale were applied again as the posttest, and the study was completed. The flow chart of the study is given in Figure 2.

### Statistical Analysis

The data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences 20.0 (IBM SPSS Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) program. All data in the study are presented as descriptive statistics including the mean, standard deviation, frequency, and percentage. Chi-squared test was used for comparisons between the categorical (e.g., sex, level of education) data of the participants in the groups. Kolmogorov–Smirnov test was conducted to test the normality of the distribution of the data, paired samples *t*-test was used for 2 variables that were normally distributed, and one-way analysis of variance was used for more than 2 variables, while the Kruskal–Wallis test was used for more than 2 variables that were not normally distributed. Additionally, Wilcoxon test was used to find the source of the difference between the 2 percentages. In evaluating the critical steps for drug inhalation, the pMDI established 5 common steps regarding the preparation of Aerosolizers, Diskus, HandiHalers, and inhaler use. The evaluation was made through these steps.<sup>6-9,11,25</sup>

### Ethical Aspect of the Study

Ethics committee approval, dated 28 June 2017 and numbered 80576354-050-99/135, was obtained from Kafkas University Faculty of Medicine before the study. Written permission was obtained from the hospital where the study was conducted. All patients were informed about the purpose of the study, and their written informed consent was obtained prior to the study.

### RESULTS

The mean age of the participants was  $66.35 \pm 9.4$  years, and the mean duration of their disease was  $112.1 \pm 99.7$  months. It was observed that 47.5% of the participants were man, 56.7% were literate without further education degrees, 77% lived in villages, 59.2% had a moderate economic status, and 50.8% had never smoked (Table 1). Regarding the inhaler use status of the participants, it was found that 35% used pMDIs, and 91.7% had received inhaler training previously (Table 1).

When the pre-training and post-training pMDI usage steps were compared, a statistically significant increase was found in the steps of shaking the inhaler tube before use ( $P < 0.001$ ), breathing out before inhalation ( $P < 0.001$ ), inhaling the drug correctly ( $P = .014$ ), and breathing out after drug inhalation ( $P < 0.001$ ).

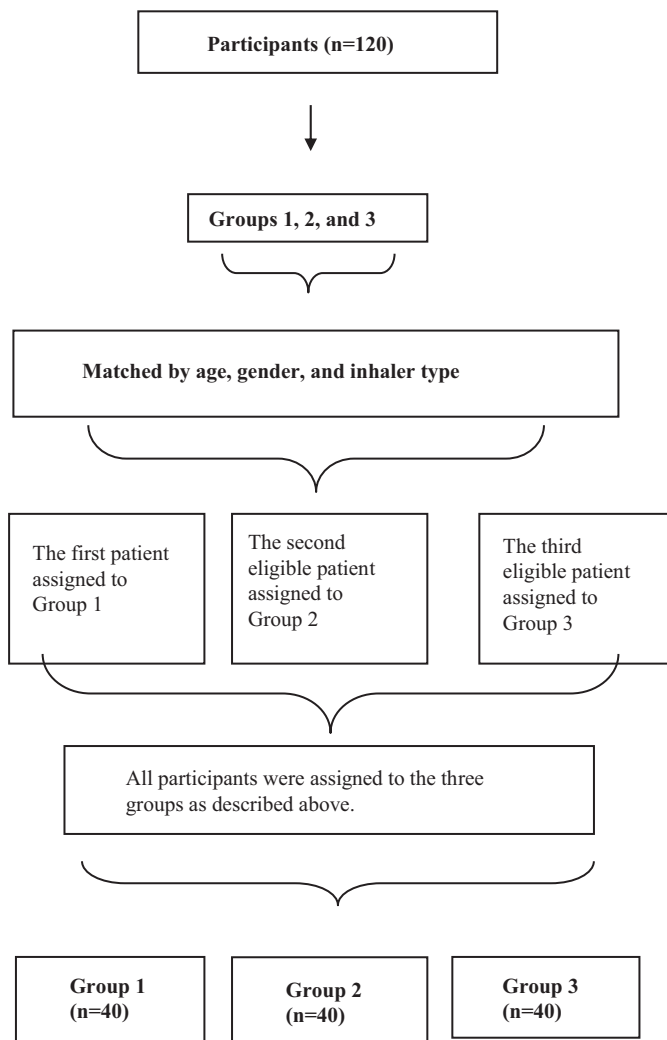
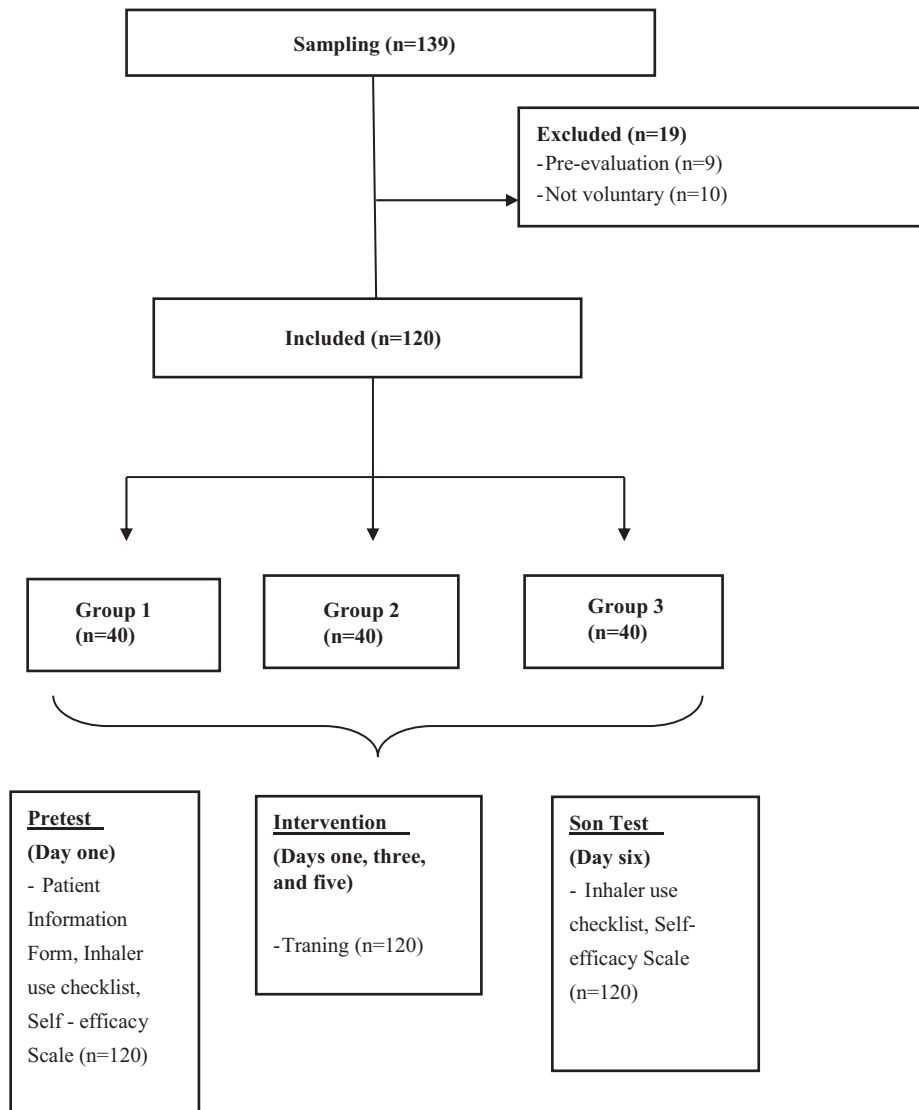


Figure 1. Sample grouping.



**Figure 2.** Flowchart.

The COPD-related self-efficacy scores of the patients before and after the training were compared. It was observed that the self-efficacy scores of the participants increased significantly after the training in all three groups ( $P < .05$ ). However, no difference was found between the 3 training groups ( $P > .05$ ) (Table 2).

## DISCUSSION

While COPD patients struggle with the negative symptoms caused by the disease, their self-efficacy decreases. In this sense, it may also be difficult for patients to properly take their drugs, which are used to combat their symptoms. It is believed that education given to COPD patients may increase self-efficacy in this regard, and by enabling the patient to use their inhaler appropriately, the patient will be able to cope with their symptoms.

In our study, the pre-training mean COPD Self-Efficacy Scale score of the patients was  $2.14 \pm 0.3$ . This mean score increased to  $2.83 \pm 0.3$  after the training. In a study in which the self-efficacy levels of individuals with different chronic diseases (COPD, diabetes mellitus, arthritis, chronic heart failure, chronic renal failure) were compared, Ceyhan and Unsal<sup>26</sup> found that the self-efficacy

perceptions of the individuals with a chronic disease, especially COPD, were low. In the same study, it was found that the COPD patients had the lowest mean self-efficacy score, while the arthritis patients had the highest mean self-efficacy score. In this sense, the low self-efficacy of COPD patients identified in Ceyhan's study was similar to the results of our study.

When Abedi et al<sup>27</sup> compared the pre-intervention and post-intervention scores of patients in a quasi-experimental study in which the effects of a self-efficacy improvement program in COPD on self-care behaviors were examined, the difference in the self-efficacy scores of the intervention group was found significant.

In a study conducted by Bourbeau et al<sup>21</sup> which included self-management training with inhaler use technique, treatment compliance, COPD knowledge, drug use training, and attack management with a case manager for a year, a decrease was found in the frequencies of hospital admission, hospitalization and antibiotic (except oral corticosteroids) use rates, while an increase was found in self-management skills, treatment compliance, and rates of correct inhaler use. In a randomized controlled study by Poursalami et al<sup>20</sup> on the effects of training provided

**Table 1. Participants' Sociodemographic Characteristics, Inhaler Form, and Inhaler Training Status**

Characteristics	G 1 (n = 40)	G 2 (n = 40)	G 3 (n = 40)	Total (n = 120)	Significance	
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)		
Gender						
Woman	19 (47.5)	19 (47.5)	19 (47.5)	57 (47.5)	0.00	1.0
Man	21 (52.5)	21 (52.5)	21 (52.5)	63 (52.5)		
Education level						
Literate	12 (30.0)	16 (40)	0	68 (56.7)	**	-
Illiterate	28 (70)	24 (60)	40 (100)	52 (43.3)		
Place of residence						
City	10 (25)	11 (27.5)	16 (40)	37 (30.8)	3.95***	.41
District	2 (5)	1 (2.5)	3 (7.5)	6 (5.0)		
Village	28 (70)	28 (70)	21 (52.5)	77 (64.2)		
Economic status						
Good	11 (27.5)	5 (12.5)	10 (25)	26 (21.7)	4.23***	.37
Neither good nor bad	24 (60)	25 (62.5)	22 (55)	71 (59.2)		
Bad	5 (12.5)	10 (25)	8 (20)	23 (19.2)		
Smoking						
Yes	1 (2.5)	5 (12.5)	2 (5)	8 (6.7)	4.73***	.31
Quit	15 (37.5)	17 (42.5)	19 (47.5)	51 (42.5)		
Never	24 (60)	18 (45)	19 (47.5)	61 (50.8)		
Type of inhaler used						
pMDI	14 (35)	14 (35)	14 (35)	42 (35)	0.00***	1.0
Aerolizer	10 (25)	10 (25)	10 (25)	30 (25)		
Diskus	8 (20)	8 (20)	8 (20)	24 (20)		
HandiHaler	8 (20)	8 (20)	8 (20)	24 (20)		
Inhaler training						
Yes	35 (87.5)	38 (95)	37 (92.5)	110 (91.7)	1.53***	.47
No	5 (12.5)	2 (5)	3 (7.5)	10 (8.3)		
Age ( $\bar{x} \pm SD$ )	67.13 $\pm$ 10.29	66.40 $\pm$ 9.78	65.59 $\pm$ 8.12	66.35 $\pm$ 9.4	0.29*	.75
Duration of disease (months)						
Median	119.71	110.65	106.00	112.12	0.29****	.86
25-75.percentiles	36-180	39-175	36-138	36-175		

G 1, show and perform; G 2, video; G 3, sample material training method;  $\bar{x} \pm SD$ , mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

\*One-way analysis of variance.

\*\*No statistical analysis.

\*\*\*Chi-square.

\*\*\*\*Kruskal-Wallis.

with visual and auditory materials on self-management, in comparison to the control group, a post-training improvement was found in inhaler use technique, and an increase was found in the ability to understand pulmonary rehabilitation in the intervention group.

In their study evaluating the effects of nursing care provided to COPD patients according to the self-care model on self-efficacy, Özkaptan and Kapacu<sup>19</sup> found a significant increase in the last visit general score and mood and physical effort sub-group scores. In a case study conducted by Kaşıkçı<sup>28</sup> with a COPD patient every 12 months with a structured training program, a statistically significant difference of 0.7 points was found between the general scores of the patient before and after the training. The results of our study were in parallel with these studies in terms of the increase we identified in the post-training scores of the patients.

In a randomized controlled study by Topçu and Oğuz<sup>29</sup> in which self-efficacy and quality of life were evaluated in stroke patients, both the self-efficacy and quality of life levels of the patients in the experimental group were found to be higher than those of the control group after the experimental group was trained.

The fact that a similar study had not been conducted before in the region where our study was conducted is the strongest aspect of our study. Patient compliance and the correct use of inhalation devices are important for the inhaler treatment to be effective. Considering that only 15%-20% of inhaler aerosol particles used even under the most suitable conditions reach the lungs and the amount of drug stored in the lungs can increase to 22.8% from 7.2% when used with the appropriate technique, the importance of the correct use of inhalation devices increases.<sup>30</sup>

Table 2. Comparison of COPD Self-Efficacy Scores Before and After Training Between Groups

COPD Self-Efficacy Scale Sub-Dimensions	G 1 (n = 40)			G 2 (n = 40)			G 3 (n = 40)			F*	P
	$\bar{x} \pm SD$	Minimum	Maximum	$\bar{x} \pm SD$	Minimum	Maximum	$\bar{x} \pm SD$	Minimum	Maximum		
Negative affect											
Pre-education	2.0 ± 0.4	1.4	3.4	2.1 ± 0.3	1.6	3.0	2.2 ± 0.3	1.8	2.9	2.997	.054
Post-education	2.6 ± 0.3	2.1	3.6	2.7 ± 0.3	1.5	3.1	2.7 ± 0.3	2.3	3.3	1.445	.240
Difference	0.5 ± 0.2	0.0	0.9	0.6 ± 0.4	-0.8	1.3	0.4 ± 0.3	0.0	1.1	0.766	.467
Test	<b>-16.598**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-8.682**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-11.140**, P &lt; .001</b>				
Intense emotional arousal											
Pre-education	2.2 ± 0.4	1.6	3.2	2.1 ± 0.5	1.6	3.8	2.4 ± 0.4	1.5	3.3	0.206	.814
Post-education	2.8 ± 0.3	2.1	3.5	2.9 ± 0.3	1.8	3.5	2.9 ± 0.3	2.38	3.63	0.939	.394
Difference	0.6 ± 0.3	-0.1	1.1	0.7 ± 0.5	-0.5	1.8	0.6 ± 0.3	0.1	1.3	1.272	.284
Test	<b>-12.250**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-9.424**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-13.266**, P &lt; .001</b>				
Physical exertion											
Pre-education	1.9 ± 0.4	1.2	3.2	1.8 ± 0.5	1.0	3.2	1.8 ± 0.3	1.4	2.6	0.016	.984
Post-education	2.6 ± 0.3	1.8	3.4	2.7 ± 0.3	1.8	3.2	2.7 ± 0.3	2.0	3.2	0.920	.401
Difference	0.7 ± 0.6	0.0	1.4	0.8 ± 0.5	-0.8	2.0	0.8 ± 0.4	0.0	1.6	0.825	.441
Test	<b>-12.787**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-9.693**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-14.364**, P &lt; .001</b>				
Weather/environmental impact											
Pre-education	1.8 ± 0.4	1.1	2.8	1.7 ± 1.6	1.1	3.0	1.7 ± 0.3	1.0	2.8	1.390	.253
Post-education	2.7 ± 0.4	2.0	3.7	2.7 ± 0.3	2.0	3.7	2.7 ± 0.3	1.5	3.5	1.488	.230
Difference	0.9 ± 0.3	0.3	1.5	0.7 ± 0.7	-1.0	2.7	0.5 ± 0.5	-0.3	1.3	0.158	.854
Test	<b>-19.034**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-12.031**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-16.855**, P &lt; .001</b>				
Behavioral risk factors											
Pre-education	2.7 ± 0.8	1.0	4.0	3.0 ± 0.6	1.0	4.0	2.7 ± 0.6	1.3	3.7	0.304	.739
Post-education	3.1 ± 0.6	2.0	4.3	3.4 ± 0.5	2.0	4.7	3.2 ± 0.5	2.0	4.3	2.432	.092
Difference	0.4 ± 0.5	-0.6	1.3	0.9 ± 0.5	-1.0	1.7	1.0 ± 0.4	0.2	1.8	0.828	.439
Test	<b>-6.142**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-6.053**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-7.115**, P &lt; .001</b>				
General before training	2.13 ± 0.3	1.6	2.9	2.14 ± 0.3	1.7	3.2	2.15 ± 0.3	1.6	2.9	0.052	.949
General after training	2.79 ± 0.2	2.3	3.4	2.87 ± 0.3	1.8	3.3	2.84 ± 0.2	2.3	3.3	0.872	.421
General difference	0.66 ± 0.2	0.2	1.2	0.73 ± 0.4	-0.8	1.3	0.70 ± 0.2	0.3	1.6	0.559	.573
General test	<b>-18.324**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-11.619**, P &lt; .001</b>			<b>-18.542**, P &lt; .001</b>				

COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; G 1, show and perform; G 2, video; G 3, sample material training method;  $\bar{x} \pm SD$ , mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

\*One-way analysis of variance.

\*\*Paired Samples t-test. Discussion

Using more than 1 inhaler device requiring different usage methods and skills and the fact that a great majority of patients are elderly are factors that increase the rate of inhaler use errors. Errors in the use of an inhaler device lead to inadequate dose intake. This in turn reduces the patient's level of symptom control and the efficiency of the treatment, as well as increases the frequency of COPD attacks and consequently hospitalization and emergency service admissions.<sup>3,7,25,31-33</sup>

In this study, it was found that 35% of all patients used pMDIs, while 20% used Diskus or HandiHaler devices. In other studies, similarly, the pMDI was found to be used more than other inhaler device types.<sup>6,25,30</sup>

It was determined in this study that, in the 3 groups, the pMDI was the inhaler which was used with the highest rate of error. The inhalers used with the lowest rate of error were Diskus in the first group and HandiHaler in the second and third groups. Similar to the results of this study, it has been observed in other studies that more errors were made in pMDI use in comparison to other types of inhalers.<sup>6,9,31,34</sup> It may be thought that the causes of this situation are associated with old age and low level of education.<sup>35,36</sup>

When the steps of pMDI use were considered in the analysis, it was found that more than 70% of the patients in the first, second, and third groups made errors in preparing the pMDI (shaking pMDI), breathing out before inhalation, and they did not hold their

breaths for 8-10 seconds after drug inhalation. In the literature review, similar to the results of this study, it was found that the most frequent errors in pMDI use have been reported as using the pMDI without shaking, not breathing out deeply before inhalation, and not holding one's breath for a specific amount of time after drug inhalation.<sup>4,6,25,34,37</sup> In previous studies, it has been seen that patients using pMDIs had difficulty, especially in their coordination between pressing and breathing in.<sup>25,31</sup> The reasons for this were thought to be the fact that patients are not sufficiently trained, the mean age of the patients in these studies was 66.35, and their duration of disease was 112 months.

Like the results of our study, in their study conducted in Turkey, Özel et al<sup>6</sup> stated that more than half of the patients made a mistake in the "appropriate breathing and then holding step of 20-30 seconds." This causes the active substance particles to go to parts of the respiratory system other than the lungs, leading to a decrease in the effect of the drug. More than half of the patients in the study by Özel et al<sup>6</sup> study and 81.4% of the patients in the study by Ramadan and Sarkis<sup>31</sup> were found to have difficulty in the coordination between pressing the pMDI and breathing in. This situation may have been associated with the possibilities that the patients are not adequately trained on the issue, the patients have a low level of education, or they do not care about the correct use of the drug.

Previous studies have argued that there are critical steps that should be followed without errors to increase the effect of the drug and reduce complications.<sup>8,11,25</sup> There was no statistically significant difference between the 3 training groups in terms of their self-efficacy levels after the training ( $P < .05$ ). This situation may have occurred due to the short duration of the training that was provided, the previous training of the patients, and the age group that was trained in this study. However, although there was no statistically significant difference, looking at the steps where errors were made between the groups, it was seen that the highest increase after the training was in the third group. The group with the second highest increase was the second group which was trained with video material. It was found that the video training method was more effective in patients with a low level of education and in patients living in rural areas.<sup>38,39</sup> In a study conducted on COPD patients living in rural areas, Locke et al<sup>40</sup> found that providing video telehealth training caused an improvement in inhaler technique and stated that it was a promising program in teaching the correct inhaler technique to COPD patients living in rural areas.<sup>40</sup> In a study by Yan et al<sup>41</sup> which aimed to increase the quality of life of COPD patients living in rural areas, an internet-based web consultancy room was created, and after a 1-year follow-up, the expected FEV1% and FEV1/FVC ratio were found to increase significantly in comparison to the control group. In line with the results of our study, these results showed that visual-auditory training is effective in the context of inhaler training.

Frequent errors in dry powder inhaler use are related to failures in breathing out before drug inhalation, inhaling the drug quickly and with a deep breath, and holding the breath for a specific amount of time after inhalation. These errors are critical since the drug fails to reach the lungs at the desired dose, and this prevents the expected effect of the drug from occurring.<sup>8,11,25</sup>

Similar to our study, it has been found in the literature that errors were made in the steps of breathing out before drug inhalation, inhaling the drug in an appropriate way and at an appropriate

speed, and holding one's breath for a specific amount of time after inhalation.<sup>10,11</sup>

In this study, a significant decrease was found in the rates of errors made by the patients after they were provided with training. The reason for the high error percentage in the pre-training Aerolizer, HandiHaler, and Diskus use steps may have been the patients' low levels of education or decreased hand-mouth coordination depending on their age.<sup>6,9</sup>

This study aimed to minimize inhaler use errors by providing training for the visual, auditory, and both visual and auditory senses of individuals with different training methods and by considering their individual differences. As a result of the study, it was determined that the lowest skill scores belonged to the pMDI users in all 3 groups before the training and that there was a statistically significant increase in these scores after the training. The steps that involved the highest rates of mistakes in all 3 groups among the steps of using metered-dose inhalers before the training were determined as shaking the inhaler, giving a deep breath and evacuating the lung, holding the breath for a sufficient time after drug inhalation and waiting a certain time for the second dose, and the increase in the patients' success rates in these steps after the training was determined to be statistically significant. It was observed that the self-efficacy scores were low in all 3 groups before the inhaler use training, and the mean self-efficacy total score and dimension scores of the patients increased significantly after the training. Consequently, using the show and perform, video, and sample material training methods, it was observed that the inhaler use skill scores and self-efficacy levels of the patients increased, but there was no significant difference between the groups.

For this reason, it is recommended to use different training methods in COPD patient training, provide a longer training period, follow the patients at home through telephone, and evaluate the efficiency of the show and perform, video, and sample material methods in different chronic diseases.

### Limitations

This study has several limitations. These are as follows:

- Single center study.
- That 70% of patients living in rural areas and cities where the study was conducted is limited to a 6-day study period due to climatic conditions.
- Self-efficacy assessment before and after the training was made once.
- The study does not have a control group.

**Ethics Committee Approval:** Ethics from Kafkas University Faculty of Medicine Ethics Committee committee approval was obtained before the study (Decision No: 80576354-050-99/135, Date: June 28, 2017).

**Informed Consent:** Written permission was obtained from the hospital was the study was conducted.

**Peer-review:** Externally peer-reviewed.

**Author Contributions:** Concept – D.Ş.B., Y.A.; Design – D.Ş.B., Y.A.; Supervision – D.Ş.B., Y.A.; Resources – D.Ş.B., Y.A.; Materials – D.Ş.B., Y.A.; Data Collection and/or Processing – D.Ş.B.; Analysis and/or Interpretation – D.Ş.B., Y.A.; Literature Search – D.Ş.B., Y.A.; Writing Manuscript – D.Ş.B., Y.A.; Critical Review – D.Ş.B., Y.A.

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# Incidence of Infiltration and Phlebitis and Risk Factors Among Chemotherapy Patients: An Observational Prospective Cohort Study

## Kemoterapi Alan Hastalarda İnfiltrasyon ve Flebit Görülme Sıklığı ve Risk Faktörleri: Gözlemsel Prospektif Çalışma

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study aimed to identify the incidence rate of infiltration, phlebitis, and risk factors in chemotherapy patients.

**Methods:** This observational prospective cohort study was conducted in the oncology and hematology clinics of a hospital in Turkey. Peripheral intravenous catheter insertion sites (n=175) on 99 patients were monitored. Researchers monitored the peripheral intravenous catheter insertion sites for 5 days after nurses inserted them. The ethics committee approved the study.

**Results:** The incidence of infiltration and phlebitis was, respectively, 9.7% and 17.5%. The incidence rate of infiltration was significantly higher, respectively, in the case of vesicants and the presence of neutropenia among patients over 52 years of age. It was determined that the risk of infiltration in women was 0.21 times higher than in men. When the neutropenia value was put into the model alone, it was determined that the risk of infiltration increased 0.414 times in the case of neutropenia.

**Conclusion:** The patient's gender, the presence of neutropenia, and the chemotherapy drug type affect the incidence of infiltration. Regular follow-up of the catheter site will reduce the workload of the nurse by ensuring the continuation of patient care and treatment without interruption. It will also reduce the frequency of the catheterization procedure and prevent the difficulties it brings to the patient.

**Keywords:** Catheterization, drug therapy, nursing, phlebitis

### Öz

**Amaç:** Bu çalışma, kemoterapi alan hastalarda infiltrasyon ve flebit görülme sıklığı ve risk faktörlerini belirlemek amacıyla yapılmıştır.

**Yöntemler:** Bu çalışma Türkiye'de bir Üniversite Hastanesinin Onkoloji ve Hematoloji Kliniklerinde gözlemsel prospektif olarak yapılmıştır. Çalışmada, periferik intravenöz kateter uygulaması yapılan 99 hastanın 175 kateter bölgesi takip edilmiştir. Çalışma kriterlerine uyan hastaların hastanede kaldıkları süre içinde tekrarlı takılan kateter bölgeleri 5 gün takip edilmiştir. Çalışmanın yapılabilmesi için etik kuruldan ve kurumdan yazılı izin alınmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Çalışma sonucunda periferik intravenöz kateter uygulamasının %9,7'sinde infiltrasyon, %17,7'sinde flebit görülmüştür. 52 yaş üstü, nötropenik ve vezikan ilaç kullanımının infiltrasyon riskini arttırdığı belirlenmiştir. Kadınlarda infiltrasyon riskinin erkeklere göre 0,21 kat daha fazla olduğu belirlenmiştir. Nötropeni tek başına modele alındığında nötropeni durumunda infiltrasyon riskinin 0,414 kat arttığı belirlenmiştir.

**Sonuç:** Çalışma sonucunda, hastanın cinsiyeti, nötropeni ve ilaç türünün infiltrasyon durumunu etkilediği belirlenmiştir. Kateter bölgesinin düzenli takip edilmesi hasta bakımının ve tedavisinin aksamadan devamını sağlayacaktır. Ayrıca kateterizasyon işleminin sıklığını azaltacak ve hastaya getirdiği zorlukları önleyecektir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Flebit, hemşire, ilaç uygulaması, kateterizasyon

## INTRODUCTION

Intravenous (IV) chemotherapy is used most commonly for cancer treatment.<sup>1</sup> Intravenous chemotherapy and the proper drug treatment have numerous advantages, but IV solutions have high osmolarity and pH, damaging the vascular endothelium.<sup>2,3</sup> Long-term treatment, on the other hand, increases the risk of complications.<sup>4</sup> Most IV chemotherapy drugs are irritants causing disruption and damage to the vein structure and limiting its long-term and repeated use.<sup>5</sup> What is essential in peripheral intravenous catheter (PIVC) chemotherapy is the completion of the peripheral drug treatment without complications. Therefore, nurses should evaluate patients' conditions and continue to monitor and provide care to prevent complications.

Infusion of chemotherapy drugs by PIVC sometimes causes infiltration and phlebitis. Infiltration is the unintentional leakage of IV solution from the targeted vein. Mechanical or physiological problems may cause infiltration. Mechanical issues may take place during the insertion of the catheter for the first time or when the catheter is in use. At the same time, physiological problems are pre-existing or new vascular issues.<sup>4,6</sup> In the presence of infiltration, nurses should monitor for any signs of pain and inflammation in the insertion site and throughout the vein pathway and neurovascular changes in the extremity. They should also be able to recognize, prevent, and treat infiltration. To prevent infiltration, they should insert the PIVC correctly, choose the right size catheter, give saline from the catheter, and fix the catheter after it has been inserted. If there are any signs of infiltration, they should stop the infusion and, if necessary, establish vascular access through another site.<sup>7,8</sup>

Phlebitis is another complication associated with PIVC during chemotherapy and is defined as vein inflammation.<sup>9</sup> Phlebitis can be of mechanical, chemical, and bacterial origin.<sup>10,11</sup> Mechanical phlebitis is related to the catheter insertion site, size, and technique. Chemical phlebitis develops due to the administration of irritants and solutions with an osmolarity greater than 600 mOsm/L. Bacterial phlebitis may occur due to the antiseptic used to clean the catheter site or due to the material by which the catheter is fixed.<sup>11,12</sup> Phlebitis is more common in chemotherapy patients due to the high toxicity of drugs to the vascular endothelium.<sup>13,14</sup>

Nurses monitor for signs of infiltration and phlebitis because they are responsible for inserting and treating PIVCs.<sup>11</sup> They are also responsible for safely implementing and maintaining them, monitoring for any signs of complication, and recording them.<sup>15</sup> Simin et al<sup>16</sup> reported that infiltration and phlebitis developed in 16.3% and 44% of the catheter insertion sites they monitored. Nurses should know the risk factors for infiltration and phlebitis to prevent them before they arise.<sup>17</sup> They should also be able to detect early signs of PIVC-related complications of IV chemotherapy drugs and manage them effectively. To do that, they should first be informed of those early signs.<sup>18</sup>

Many factors affect the development of infiltration and phlebitis.<sup>19,20</sup> Those factors may be related to the patient or the cannula and the way it is used.<sup>21</sup> Patient age,<sup>22</sup> gender,<sup>23</sup> and the presence of chronic disease<sup>24</sup> affect the development of phlebitis. Administration, maintenance, daily monitoring of PIVCs, drug concentration, and general characteristics of the patient may increase the risk of phlebitis.<sup>21</sup> Daud<sup>25</sup> reported that the development of phlebitis was associated with gender, catheter insertion site, and drug type and that phlebitis was more common on the forearm than on the hand and the application of drugs according to fluid administration increases the incidence of phlebitis. Nurses should, therefore, take patients' age, gender, dominant hand, and the presence of neutropenia into account before inserting PIVCs. They should also ensure that the arm is below the heart level during PIVC insertion and should massage before proceeding and keep a record of the number of PIVC insertion attempts.<sup>1</sup> Before chemotherapy, the PIVC site should be assessed and monitored during the procedure. Phlebitis causes acute local sensitivity, redness, fever, and mild edema in the vein on the insertion site. Detecting these signs, nurses should immediately stop the infusion and apply a warm compress to the insertion site and insert the catheter into another place.<sup>7</sup>

There are few studies on the incidence of infiltration and phlebitis in chemotherapy patients. Both Arias-Fernández et al<sup>22</sup> and Ozkaraman<sup>26</sup> reported that the incidence of phlebitis among chemotherapy patients ranged from 5% to 21%. However, PIVC chemotherapy patients suffer serious complications that reduce their quality of life. Those complications cause a delay in treatment and increased workload and care costs.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, nurses should be familiar with the risk factors, evaluate PIVC sites in IV chemotherapy patients, monitor their medications, and detect early signs of complications.<sup>4,11,20</sup> This study aimed to determine the incidence of phlebitis and infiltration and potential risk factors among chemotherapy patients and serve as a guide for nurses to that end.

## METHODS

This observational prospective cohort study was conducted in the oncology and hematology clinics of a hospital in Turkey.

### Study Population and Sampling Method

The study population consisted of all patients of a hospital. The sample consisted of 99 patients receiving chemotherapy in the hematology and oncology services of the hospital between September 2019 and February 2020. In total, 175 peripheral catheter interventions on 99 patients were recorded. Repeated catheter intervention attempts were also monitored.

### Inclusion Criteria

- Over 18 years of age
- Receiving PIVC chemotherapy for at least 24 hours

- No 2 PIVC insertion attempts on the same arm or an interval of at least 8 hours between the 2 PIVC insertion attempts on the same arm
- Voluntary

#### Exclusion Criteria

- The presence of an earlier complication in the PIVC insertion site
- Central line placement for chemotherapy
- Chemotherapy was over

Power Analysis was performed to determine the sufficient number of participants necessary to detect significant differences. The result showed that a sample size of 160 would be enough with a confidence interval of 90% ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

#### Data Collection

Data were collected using a peripheral intravenous catheter insertion monitoring form (PICIMF) developed by the researcher based on a literature review.<sup>16,27</sup> The PICIMF consists of 3 sections. The first section (PICIMF-1) contains patient characteristics (age, sex, dominant hand, tobacco use, vascular temperature, hemoglobin level, and presence of neutropenia, chronic disease, and diabetes). Vein status was evaluated using the 5-level vein assessment scale (grade 1: veins neither visible nor palpable; grade 2: veins visible but not palpable; grade 3: veins barely visible and palpable; grade 4: veins visible and palpable; grade 5: veins clearly visible and easily palpable).<sup>28</sup> The second section (PICIMF-2) contains items on the catheterization method (vein dilation, catheter vein, insertion site and angle, check with saline, number of interventions, pain status, set replacement, chemotherapy drug type, IV push medications, vein valve, and drug administration type). The third section (PICIMF-3) contains items on catheter site monitoring (infiltration and phlebitis scale and interventions for complications). The Visual Infusion Phlebitis scale was developed by the Infusion Nurses Society.<sup>29</sup>

#### Procedure

The researchers verbally informed the patients and nurses about the study, and verbal consent was obtained from those who agreed to participate.

The researcher determined the chemotherapy in patients in the clinic and completed the PICIMF-1 for those who met the inclusion criteria. For IV catheter/PIVC insertion, the insertion site was cleaned with 70% alcohol solution, the catheter was inserted and fixed with plaster by the nurse. Then, the researcher monitored catheterization and completed the PICIMF-2. The researcher evaluated the catheter site and completed the PICIMF-3 at 12, 24, 48, 72, 96, and 120 hours after the insertion of the PIVC. As per institutional policy, the nurse replaced the PIVC with a new one no more than 3 or 4 days later. The researcher monitored the insertion site and completed the PICIMF-3 for 2 days after removing the PIVC. She observed and completed the PICIMF-3 for 5 days after the PIVC was removed for any reason. She also identified and kept a record of the interventions for complications. If the catheter was inserted again into the other arm or the same site 8 hours after the first attempt, then she kept a record of it on a separate form.

#### Ethical Consideration

Written approvals for this study were obtained from Karadeniz Technical University Medical Faculty Scientific Research Ethics Committee (Decision No/Date: 24237859-701/ October 11, 2019). Patients and nurses were informed about the purpose and

procedure of the study, and written consent was obtained from those who agreed to participate prior to data collection.

#### Statistical Analysis

Data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 22.0 (IBM SPSS Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) at a significance level of .05. Descriptive data were analyzed using number (n) and percentage (%). A chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test was used for numerical data. Logistic regression and correlation tests were performed.

## RESULTS

One hundred and seventy-five catheter insertion sites were monitored for 5 days. Phlebitis was significantly more common in female patients than in males. The mean age of the patients was  $50.99 \pm 13.53$  years. Phlebitis was more common in patients over 52 than in other age groups. Phlebitis was more common in ambidextrous and right-handed patients than in left-handed patients. Infiltration was observed in 10.4% of patients with chronic disease, and phlebitis was observed in 16.7%. Infiltration was observed in 14.3% of patients with diabetes, and phlebitis was observed in 21.1%. Infiltration was observed in 9.9% and phlebitis in 15.6% of smokers. Infiltration was observed in 10.4% of patients with a hemoglobin value below 9, and phlebitis was 23.9%. Phlebitis was more common in patients with neutropenia than in those without neutropenia. However, the variables did not affect the incidence of infiltration. The incidence of infiltration and phlebitis was 9.7% and 17.5%, respectively ( $n=175$ ) (Table 1).

Infiltration was observed in 5.7% of patients with grade 3 vein structure, and phlebitis was in 10.9%. There was no difference between using hand sanitizer and washing hands in terms of complication development ( $P=.410$ ). Statistically significant difference was not found in clench and tap the vein ( $P=.490$ ). Receiving massage and the forearm lower the heart level before inserting the catheter statistically significantly increased the incidence of phlebitis ( $P=.080$ ,  $P=.001$ ). It was determined that PIVC mainly was inserted in the anterior (47.4%) and right arms (57.7%) of the patients, but this did not affect the incidence of complications ( $P=.540$ ,  $P=.840$ ). It was determined that PIVC was applied at a 15° degree angle in 61% of the patients, 67.4% were given saline after PIVC insertion, 84.6% could be inserted in the first attempt, and PIVC was changed every 24 hours in 93% of them. It was determined that these features did not affect the incidence of complications ( $P > .050$ ). It was determined that 3 or more PIVC attempts statistically increased the risk of phlebitis ( $P=.010$ ). Vesicants statistically significantly increased the incidence of infiltration ( $P=.030$ ) (Table 2).

A model was developed based on sex, presence of chronic disease, type of chemotherapy drug, age, and neutropenia. These risk factors causing infiltration were analyzed by logistic regression analysis, and it determined variables were not influential. The correct class rate obtained with the created model was found to be 90.3% (Table 3). As sex increases, the risk of infiltration increases 0.21 times.

A model was developed based on sex, presence of chronic disease, type of chemotherapy drug, age, and neutropenia. These risk factors causing phlebitis were analyzed by logistic regression analysis. When the neutropenia value was put into the model alone, it was determined that the risk of infiltration

**Table 1. Incidence of Infiltration and Phlebitis by Demographic Characteristics**

Demographic Characteristics	n = 99	Infiltration (n = 175)		P/ $\chi^2$	Phlebitis (n = 175)		P/ $\chi^2$
	n (%)	No, n (%)	Yes, n (%)		No, n (%)	Yes, n (%)	
Gender							
Male	66 (66.7)	102 (93.6)	7 (6.4)	.060	99 (90.8)	10 (9.2)	.001
Female	33 (33.3)	56 (84.8)	10 (15.2)	3.572	45 (68.2)	21 (31.8)	14.461
Age group (mean age = 50.99 ± 13.53)							
<51 years	44 (44.4)	100 (93.5)	7 (6.5)	.070	81 (88)	11 (12.0)	.040
>52 years	55 (55.6)	58 (85.3)	10 (4.7)	3.159	63 (75.9)	20 (24.1)	4.412
Chronic disease							
No	59 (59.6)	72 (91.1)	7 (8.9)	.729	64 (81)	15 (19)	.689
Yes	40 (40.4)	86 (89.6)	10 (10.4)	.120	80 (83.3)	16 (16.7)	.160
Dominant hand							
Right	71 (71.7)	112 (93.3)	8 (6.7)	.126	107 (89.2)	13 (10.8)	.001
Left	8 (8.1)	12 (85.7)	2 (14.3)	4.136	11 (78.6)	3 (21.4)	14.047
Ambidextrous	20 (20.2)	34 (82.9)	7 (17.1)		26 (63.4)	15 (36.6)	
Diabetes							
No	83 (83.8)	30 (90.9)	3 (9.1)	1.000	29 (87.9)	4 (12.1)	.350
Yes	16 (16.2)	128 (90.1)	14 (9.9)	.018	115 (81)	27 (19)	.873
Tobacco use							
No	78 (78.8)	31 (91.2)	3 (8.8)	1.00	25 (73.5)	9 (26.5)	.141
Yes	21 (21.2)	127 (90.1)	14 (9.9)	.038	119 (84.4)	22 (15.6)	2.220
Hemoglobin group (9.86 ± 2.21)							
<9	36 (36.4)	60 (89.60)	7 (10.40)	.796	51 (76.10)	16 (23.9)	.092
>9	63 (63.6)	98 (90.70)	10 (9.30)	.067	93 (86.10)	15 (13.90)	2.832
Neutropenia							
No	57 (43.4)	93 (93.9)	6 (6.1)	.060	87 (87.9)	12 (12.1)	.020
Yes	42 (76)	65 (85.5)	11 (14.5)	3.470	57 (75)	19 (25)	4.892
Total incidence	99 (100)	158 (90.3)	17 (9.7)		144 (82.3)	31 (17.7)	

increased 0.414 times in the case of neutropenia. The correct class rate obtained with the created model was found to be 81.7% (Table 3).

## DISCUSSION

The acceptable rate of phlebitis by INS is 5%.<sup>30</sup> The incidence of phlebitis varies between 2% and 44% in the results of the studies.<sup>16,22</sup> In this study, phlebitis was observed in 17.7% of patients receiving PIVC chemotherapy. Arias-Fernández et al<sup>22</sup> found that the incidence of phlebitis in oncology, neurosurgery, and hematology patients receiving chemotherapy was 21.3%. Ozkaraman<sup>26</sup> reported that 5% of patients receiving chemotherapy developed phlebitis. Simin et al<sup>16</sup> reported phlebitis incidence as 44% patients receiving medication other than chemotherapy. Roberts et al<sup>31</sup> determined the incidence of phlebitis as 86% in their study with female breast cancer patients. Marsh et al<sup>32</sup> systematic review and meta-analysis study on PIVC-related complications in adult patients and found the phlebitis rate to be 19.3%. Larsen et al<sup>33</sup> found that phlebitis developed in 7.6% (n = 30) of the patients. According to Shintani et al<sup>34</sup>, patients with hematological malignancies determined that 11% of them developed phlebitis. Santos-Costa et al<sup>35</sup> determined that 9% of adult oncology patients developed phlebitis. Daud<sup>25</sup> found that 36.1% of gynecology and orthopedic patients developed phlebitis. Urbanetto

et al<sup>27</sup> reported phlebitis in 2.63% of patients. Atay et al<sup>24</sup> observed phlebitis in 31.8% of patients. Hedayatinejad et al<sup>36</sup> observed phlebitis grade 2 in 18.85% of intensive care and coronary patients. Study results were generally higher than this study's incidence results. This situation can be thought to be related to the nursing practices in the countries and hospitals where the studies were conducted. There are phlebitis prevention protocols in hospitals where the work was done.

The incidence of infiltration varies between 16% and 25% in the results of the studies.<sup>16</sup> Ozkaraman<sup>26</sup> found that 25% of patients with chemotherapy-related complications developed infiltration. Simin et al<sup>16</sup> observed infiltration in 3% of patients. Marsh et al<sup>32</sup>, in a systematic review and meta-analysis study of PIVC-related complications in adult patients, examined the research and determined the infiltration/extravasation rate to be 13.7%. Larsen et al<sup>33</sup>, stated that infiltration developed in 18.7%, and the most common PIVC complication was infiltration. According to Shintani et al<sup>34</sup>, patients with hematological malignancies determined that infiltration developed in 18.4% of them. Santos-Costa et al<sup>35</sup> determined that 18% of adult oncology patients develop infiltration. Study results were generally higher than this study's incidence results. In this study, infiltration was observed in 9.7% of patients receiving PIVC chemotherapy. This result may be due to the difference in nurse protocols, patient characteristics,

Table 2. Characteristics of Catheterization (n = 175)

Characteristics	n = 175	Infiltration (n = 175)		P/ $\chi^2$	Phlebitis (n = 175)		P/ $\chi^2$
	Total	No	Yes		No	Yes	
Vein status							
Grade1	17 (9.7)	17 (9.7)	-	.37	14 (8.0)	3 (17.6)	.08
Grade 2	34 (19.4)	30 (17.1)	4 (2.3)	4.276	28 (16.0)	6 (3.4)	8.093
Grade 3	74 (42.3)	64 (36.6)	10 (5.7)		55 (31.4)	19 (10.9)	
Grade 4	44 (25.1)	41 (23.4)	3 (1.7)		41 (23.4)	3 (1.7)	
Grade 5	6 (3.4)	6 (3.4)	-		6 (4.2)	-	
Hand hygiene							
With soap and water	124 (70.9)	109 (87.9)	15 (12.1)	.07	101 (81.5)	23 (18.5)	.41
With antiseptics	51 (29.1)	49 (96.1)	2 (3.9)	2.754	43 (84.3)	8 (15.7)	.203
Clench and unclench the fist							
No	30 (17.1)	29 (96.7)	1 (3.3)	.312	26 (86.7)	4 (13.3)	.49
Yes	145 (82.9)	129 (89.0)	16 (11.0)	1.681	118 (81.4)	27 (18.6)	.477
Tap the vein							
No	93 (53.1)	83 (89.2)	10 (10.8)	.621	81 (87.1)	12 (12.9)	.07
Yes	82 (46.9)	75 (91.5)	7 (8.5)	.244	63 (76.8)	19 (23.2)	3.152
Massage							
No	123 (70.3)	108 (87.8)	15 (12.2)	.08	101 (82.1)	22 (17.9)	.001
Yes	52 (29.7)	50 (96.2)	2 (3.8)	2.905	43 (82.7)	9 (17.3)	.927
Forearm is lower than the heart							
No	114 (65.1)	104 (91.2)	10 (8.8)	.56	94 (82.5)	20 (17.5)	.00
Yes	61 (34.9)	54 (88.5)	7 (11.5)	.331	50 (82.0)	11 (18.0)	.936
Catheter vein							
Cephalic	103 (58.9)	88 (85.4)	15 (14.6)	7.373	86 (83.5)	17 (16.5)	.69
Basilic	44 (25.1)	43 (97.7)	1 (2.3)	.06	35 (79.5)	9 (20.5)	1.432
Cubital	11 (6.3)	10 (90.9)	1 (9.1)		8 (72.7)	3 (27.3)	
Metacarpal	17 (9.7)	17 (100.0)	-		15 (88.2)	2 (11.8)	
Catheter site							
Forearm	83 (47.4)	70 (84.3)	13 (15.7)	.08	67 (80.7)	16 (19.3)	.54
Back of the arm	40 (22.9)	39 (97.5)	1 (2.5)	8.261	36 (90.0)	4 (10.0)	3.074
Cubital	6 (3.4)	5 (83.3)	1 (16.7)		5 (83.3)	1 (16.7)	
Wrist	27 (15.4)	25 (92.6)	2 (7.4)		20 (74.1)	7 (25.9)	
Dorsal side of the hand	19 (10.9)	19 (100.0)	-		16 (84.2)	3 (15.8)	
Catheter arm							
Right	101 (57.7)	92 (91.1)	9 (8.9)	.79	84 (83.2)	17 (16.8)	.84
Left	74 (42.3)	66 (89.2)	8 (10.8)	.176	60 (81.1)	14 (18.9)	.128
Catheter insertion angle							
15	107 (61.1)	95 (88.8)	12 (11.2)	.40	87 (81.3)	20 (18.7)	.76
30	44 (25.1)	42 (95.5)	2 (4.5)	1.827	36 (81.8)	8 (18.2)	.524
45	24 (13.7)	21 (87.5)	3 (12.5)		21 (87.5)	3 (12.5)	
SF-control							
Yes	118 (67.4)	106(89.10)	13(10.90)	.431	95 (79.80)	24 (20.2)	.21
No	57 (32.6)	52 (92.90)	4 (7.10)	.621	49 (87.50)	7 (12.5)	1.536
Number of PIVC insertion attempts							
1	148 (84.6)	135 (91.2)	13 (8.80)	.068	124 (83.8)	24 (16.20)	.01
2	22 (12.6)	20 (90.90)	2 (40)	5.385	19 (86.40)	3 (13.60)	13.786
≥3	5 (2.9)	3 (60)	2 (40)		1 (20)	4 (80)	

(Continued)

**Table 2. Characteristics of Catheterization (n = 175) (Continued)**

Characteristics	n = 175	Infiltration (n = 175)		P/ $\chi^2$	Phlebitis (n = 175)		P/ $\chi^2$
	Total	No	Yes		No	Yes	
Set replacement							
Every 12 hours	6 (3.4)	5 (83.3)	1 (16.70)	.456	4 (66.7)	2 (33.3)	.07
24 hours	163 (93.1)	148 (90.8)	15 (9.20)	2.610	137 (84)	26 (16)	6.786
48 hours	3 (1.7)	3 (100)	-		2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)	
72 hours	3 (1.7)	2 (66.7)	1 (33)		1 (33.3)	2 (66.7)	
Push drug							
No	21 (12)	5 (83.3)	1 (16.7)	.456	20 (95.2)	1 (4.8)	.07
1	42 (24)	148 (90.8)	15 (9.2)	2.610	36 (85.7)	6 (14.3)	6.786
2	69 (39.4)	3 (100)	-		54 (78.3)	15 (21.7)	
3	43 (24.6)	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)		34 (79.1)	-	
Chemotherapy drug type							
Irritant	44 (25.1)	98 (92.5)	8 (7.5)	.035	86 (81.1)	20 (18.9)	.336
Vesicant	80 (45.7)	14 (73.7)	5 (26.3)	6.706	14 (73.7)	5 (26.3)	2.181
Irritant and vesicant	51 (29.1)	46 (92)	4 (8)		44 (88)	6 (12)	

PIVC, peripheral intravenous catheter.

and drug treatments. Nurses should provide holistic care with a patient-centered approach in infusion therapy and focus on preventing complications.<sup>34</sup>

The incidence of phlebitis is affected by the patient's age and gender, catheter number, catheter insertion site, duration of catheter placement, anatomical position, medications and their doses, the nurse's experience, and the catheter material.<sup>37</sup> In this study, the incidence of phlebitis is related to gender and age in right and ambidextrous users and those with neutropenia ( $P < .050$ ). However, the incidence of phlebitis is not related to chronic disease, diabetes, and tobacco use ( $P > .050$ ). Phlebitis was significantly more common in female patients than in males. Also, gender is effective in the multivariate and univariate models for phlebitis ( $P > .050$ ). Similarly, Abolfotouh et al<sup>23</sup> reported that phlebitis was more common in women than men. Nassaji-Zavareh and Ghorbani<sup>20</sup> found that the incidence of phlebitis in women and men was 31% and 20.7%, respectively. Infiltration was more common in female patients than in males, but not significantly ( $P < .050$ ). Also, gender is not effective in the multivariate and univariate models for infiltration. Contrary to the findings,

Liu et al<sup>38</sup> reported that infiltration was more common in females than men when the data were evaluated by univariate analysis. The difference in study results may be due to the different drug treatments. This situation may be related to the smaller caliber of female vessels compared to males.<sup>39</sup>

This study determined that phlebitis's incidence was statistically significantly higher over 52 years ( $P < .050$ ). But age is not effective in the multivariate and univariate models for phlebitis. Similarly to this study result, Arias-Fernández et al<sup>22</sup> stated that the incidence of phlebitis increased with age. Hedayatinejad et al<sup>36</sup> reported that the development of phlebitis grade 3 in patients over 60 years of age was 25.89%. Elderly cancer patients are at higher risk of developing phlebitis because cancer significantly reduces tissue repair capacity and immune function, which also decreases with age.<sup>1,21</sup> Also, Roberts et al<sup>31</sup>, in their study with female breast cancer patients, reported that younger patients had a significantly higher rate of complications. They stated that this was the application of more intensive treatments to young patients. There are studies saying that age is not a risk factor for the development of PIVC complications,<sup>24</sup> older age

**Table 3. Logistic Regression Analyses of Incidence of Phlebitis and Infiltration by Some Variables**

Variables	Phlebitis				Infiltration			
	Multivariate		Univariate		Multivariate		Univariate	
	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P
Sex	2.248 (0.735-6.875)	.156	2.602 (0.939-7.212)	.066	0.21 (0.084-0.523)	.001	0.216 (0.094-0.497)	.216
Chronic disease	1.524 (0.524-4.431)	.439	0.858 (0.311-2.368)	.767	1.168 (0.499-2.734)	.72	0.83 (0.381-1.805)	.638
Type of the chemotherapy drug		.794		.995		.794		.995
Vesicant	1.278 (0.32-5.112)	.728	0.959 (0.265-3.475)	.949	1.358 (0.46-4.01)	.794	0.955 (0.366-2.49)	.924
Irritant and vesicant	1.417 (0.357-5.623)	.620	1.333 (0.351-5.066)	.673	0.99 (0.321-3.054)	.579	0.964 (0.337-2.759)	.946
Age	0.999 (0.954-1.047)	.977	1 (0.96-1.042)	.208	1.025 (0.987-1.065)	.989	1.021 (0.988-1.055)	.208
Neutropenia	2.392 (0.791-7.234)	.123	2.623 (0.923-7.451)	.070	1.774 (0.745-4.225)	.205	0.414 (0.187-0.917)	.030
Constant	0.030	.012			-2.528	.195		

OR, odds ratio.

is a risk factor,<sup>22,31</sup> and adult patients are a risk factor.<sup>31,40</sup> Therefore, nurses should consider the age of PIVC chemotherapy patients and monitor for early signs of phlebitis more often. This study revealed that age is a significant risk factor in developing phlebitis. In this study, infiltration was joint in lower 51 years groups. However, age is not effective in the multivariate and univariate models for infiltration. This result differs from that of Simin et al<sup>16</sup>, who determined that the incidence of infiltration increases with age. The reason for the difference in the study results is that apart from the individual characteristics, the disease, and the drug treatments taken, the nurse's experience is also practical.

In this study, it was determined that chronic diseases do not make effective the incidence of infiltration and phlebitis ( $P > .050$ ). Phlebitis is ineffective in the multivariate and univariate models for infiltration and phlebitis. Contrary to the findings of Atay et al<sup>24</sup> stated that chronic diseases and the duration of catheterization led to an increase in the incidence of phlebitis. The risks may vary according to the types of chronic diseases. For example, diabetes causes permanent and pathological changes in the circulatory system.<sup>21</sup> Nassaji-Zavareh and Ghorbani<sup>20</sup> reported that phlebitis developed with and without diabetes. Contrary to Simin et al<sup>16</sup>, they determined the relationship between diabetes and the incidence of phlebitis or infiltration. Rodrigues et al<sup>14</sup> argue that age, diabetes, chemotherapy, vein visibility, and palpability make vascular procedures difficult.<sup>14</sup> In this study, the incidence of phlebitis and infiltration among our patients with diabetes was 19% and 9.9%, respectively, which was not statistically significant ( $P > .050$ ). Different study results show that diabetes alone does not carry a risk. But the duration of chronic diseases is the duration of catheterization led to an increase in the incidence of phlebitis.<sup>21</sup> Chronic conditions may be associated with inflammation and thrombus formation in the vascular structure and increased blood viscosity. Therefore, close follow-up of patients with comorbidities is necessary during IV treatment.<sup>34</sup>

In this study, there was a relationship between the presence of neutropenia and the incidence of infiltration. Also, neutropenia is not effective in the multivariate and univariate model for infiltration but is effective for phlebitis ( $P > .050$ ). Contrary to the findings, Simin et al<sup>16</sup> also found no correlation between neutropenia and the incidence of infiltration or phlebitis. The difference in the study results is thought to be because it was performed with hemato-oncology patients in our study.

In this study, most catheters were inserted into the cephalic vein in the right forearm. There was no correlation between catheter insertion into the right or left arm and the incidence of phlebitis or infiltration. Infiltration was most common in cubital sites and cephalic veins, which was statistically insignificant. Phlebitis was most common in cubital veins on the wrist, which was, however, statistically insignificant. Simin et al<sup>16</sup> also found that the incidence of phlebitis and infiltration was significantly higher in cubital insertion sites. Arias-Fernández et al<sup>22</sup> reported that phlebitis was most common in the insertion sites on the forearm, while Daud<sup>25</sup> found that phlebitis was more common in the insertion sites in the forearm than those in the dorsal side of the hand. Ozkaraman<sup>26</sup> observed infiltration in 60% of patients and phlebitis in basilic vein insertion sites in all patients. Urbanetto et al<sup>27</sup> reported a correlation between catheters inserted into the forearm and the incidence of phlebitis. Roberts et al<sup>31</sup> found that using the arm alternately, 94% of patients experienced no or

low-grade symptoms. This study results may be due to the difference in drug treatments. These results show that infiltration and phlebitis can develop in every site in the arm. Inserting catheters on the non-dominant arm and into large-diameter veins, such as cephalic and basilic, helps prevent complications, especially in long-term chemotherapy patients.<sup>29</sup> We also found that the risk of phlebitis was higher in ambidextrous patients. These results indicate that catheters should be inserted into the non-dominant arm and that the component used for drug therapy should not be moved.<sup>27</sup>

In this study, infiltration was observed in patients receiving vesicants. Vesicant-type drugs are important risk factors for the development of infiltration. It was determined that the chemotherapeutic drug type was not affected for phlebitis but was affected for infiltration. Chemotherapy type is ineffective in the multivariate and univariate models for infiltration and phlebitis. There is a correlation between the solution type and the phlebitis risk.<sup>24</sup> Chemotherapeutic drugs impair vein visibility and palpability. We observed that infiltration was most common in patients in grade 3 (barely visible and palpable veins), suggesting that warm compression or effleurage should be used to help dilate the vein before insertion of the catheter. In this study number of PIVC insertion attempts increased phlebitis risk. Most chemotherapy drugs are alkaloid agents that cause non-specific damage to normal cells and tissues while killing tumor cells. The severity of the injury is related to cytotoxicity, pH, osmotic pressure, and drug concentration. The ideal vein for PIVC insertion therapy depends on the treatment's pH, osmolarity, and duration.<sup>1</sup> These drugs have a low pH and high osmolarity, which damages the tunica intima layer of the vein.<sup>24</sup>

This study determined that clenching and unclenching the fist, tapping the vein, and lower than the client's heart to help dilate the vein before insertion of the catheter are not the risk for infiltration or phlebitis. However, massage and the number of PIVC insertion attempts increased phlebitis risk. Also, the hand hygiene of the nurse, vein status, catheter site, catheter arm, catheter insertion angle, control by saline, set replacement, and push drug are not the risk for infiltration or phlebitis. The nurse's experience performing the PIVC application is an essential factor in forming complications.<sup>35</sup> For this reason, there should be protocols that guide nurses in patient care from the beginning to the end of this practice in clinics.

### Study Limitations

The study is limited to patients receiving chemotherapy treatment in a university's hematology and oncology services. In addition, patients' comorbidity, cancer type, and stage of chemotherapy situations constitute another limitation.

The incidence of infiltration and phlebitis was 9.7% and 17.5%, respectively, in patients receiving PIVC chemotherapy. In the female increases, the risk of infiltration increases 0.21 times. When the neutropenia value was put into the model alone, it was determined that the risk of infiltration increased 0.414 times in the case of neutropenia. The risk factors for infiltration are lowering the arm below the heart level, massage, and the high number of PIVC insertion attempts. The risk factors for phlebitis are age, gender, inserting the catheter into the dominant hand, the presence of neutropenia, and the type of chemotherapy drug. Nurses should have the knowledge and experience to start, resume, and discontinue the PIVC chemotherapy treatment.

They also play a crucial role in preventing complications.<sup>2,3</sup> They should be able to evaluate the characteristics of patients and IV drugs and determine the duration of treatment to provide high-quality nursing care and avoid the development of phlebitis and infiltration. Before inserting the PIVC, they should be aware of the risk factors for complications and consider the patient's characteristics to prevent them. After inserting the PIVC, they should use valid infiltration and phlebitis scales and monitor patients to avoid complications before they occur and to perform successful PIVC insertion in as few attempts as possible or on the first attempt.

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# Oral Motor Stimulation, Feeding and Sucking Success in Preterm Infants

## Preterm Bebeklerde Oral Motor Stimulasyon, Beslenme ve Emme Başarısı

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Sucking and swallow dysfunction are common complications in preterm infants that cause oral feeding difficulties. Achieving oral feeding as early as possible is beneficial for preterm infants. This study aimed to determine the effect of nutrition oral motor stimulation in preterm infants for successful feeding and sucking.

**Methods:** This study was conducted as an experimental trial at a neonatal intensive care unit between May 5, 2017, and March 19, 2018. The population of the study comprised preterm infants between the 29th and 34th weeks of gestation. Preterm infants in the experimental group (n = 39) were applied oral motor stimulation, preterm infants in the control group (n = 38) were only fed. These procedures were performed on each preterm infants in the experimental and control groups 3 times a day for 14 days.

**Results:** It was found that the time of transition to full oral feeding was shorter ( $P = .010$ ) while the LATCH mean scores for the first ( $P < .001$ ) and second ( $P = .001$ ) measurements and average nutrient intake for the second ( $P = .005$ ) measurements were higher in the experimental group. The preterm infants who received oral motor stimulation transitioned to full oral feeding earlier and showed a higher success in sucking.

**Conclusion:** Oral motor stimulation positively affects sucking skills in preterm infants and promotes their health. It is recommended to use international standard values for assessing the growth rate in preterm infants.

**Keywords:** Feeding, sucking success, oral motor stimulation, preterm infant, nurse

### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Emme ve yutma yetersizliği, prematüre bebeklerin oral beslenme güçlüğüne neden olan yaygın komplikasyonlardır. Oral beslenmenin mümkün olduğu kadar erken başarılması prematüre bebekler için yararlıdır. Bu çalışmanın amacı preterm bebeklerde oral motor stimülasyonun başarılı beslenme ve emme üzerine etkisini belirlemektir.

**Yöntemler:** Bu çalışma, 5 Mayıs 2017-19 Mart 2018 tarihleri arasında bir yenidoğan yoğun bakım ünitesinde deneysel çalışma olarak yürütülmüştür. Araştırmanın evrenini 29. ve 34. gebelik haftaları arasındaki preterm bebekler oluşturmuştur. Deney grubundaki preterm bebeklere (n = 39) oral motor stimülasyon uygulanmıştır, kontrol grubundaki preterm bebekler (n = 38) sadece beslenmiştir. Bu işlemler deney ve kontrol grubundaki her preterm bebeğe 14 gün boyunca günde 3 kez uygulanmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Deney grubunda tam oral beslenmeye geçiş süresi daha kısa ( $P = .010$ ) iken birinci ( $P < .001$ ) ve ikinci ( $P = .001$ ) ölçümlerde LATCH ölçeği ortalama puanları ve ikinci ( $P = .005$ ) ölçüm besin alımı daha fazla bulunmuştur. Oral motor stimülasyon uygulanan preterm bebekler tam oral beslenmeye daha erken geçmiş ve daha ileri emme başarısı göstermiştir.

**Sonuç:** Oral motor stimülasyon, prematüre bebeklerde emme becerilerini olumlu yönde etkilemekte ve sağlıklarını desteklemektedir. Preterm bebeklerde büyüme oranını değerlendirmek için uluslararası standart değerlerin kullanılması önerilmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Beslenme, emme başarısı, oral motor stimülasyon, preterm bebek, hemşire

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## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, with advances in neonatal resuscitation and caring methods, the survival rate of preterm infants has gradually increased. Sucking, swallowing, and respiratory dysfunction are widespread complications in the preterm infants that reason oral feeding difficulties.<sup>1,2</sup> Safe and successful oral feeding requires proper maturation of sucking, swallowing, and respiration.<sup>3</sup> The development of behaviors necessary for safe and successful nutrition begins long before birth. Jaw movements begin to be seen in the intrauterine 11th week. But sucking–swallowing–respiratory coordination is not sufficiently developed before 34 weeks of gestation. For this reason, preterm babies at the greater gestational week usually show more developed and consistent feeding skills.<sup>4-7</sup> Maternal breast milk is best for neurodevelopment in preterm infants. Achieving oral nutrition as early as possible is beneficial for preterm infants.<sup>8-10</sup>

Oral motor stimulation (OMS) is defined as the sensorial stimulation of cheek, lip, jaw, upper-lower gum, internal cheek, tongue, and soft palate that affects the physiology of oropharyngeal mechanisms and develops feeding functions. Oral motor stimulation is used as an alternative or supplementary early intervention strategy to develop oral feeding skills in preterm infants.<sup>11-13</sup> Previous studies have indicated that the use of OMS during or before the transition to oral feeding may not only have positive effects on the preterm infants' feeding behaviors but also enhance their general clinical course. Preterm infants who suffer from oral feeding problems often experience long-term health problems and delayed discharge from the hospital. A more effective feeding decreases adverse outcomes by decreasing hospital stays.<sup>14-16</sup>

Preterm infants are required to long time neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) stay in order to stabilize, feed, and gain optimal weight.<sup>17-19</sup> In addition, all nutritional options except breast milk increase the cost.<sup>20,21</sup> Oral motor stimulation can develop sucking success and provide early oral feeding. Thus, nurse labor and hospital costs may decrease, and OMS can be a cost-effective application.

Therefore, the present study was conducted to assess the effect of OMS on the time of transition to full oral feeding, sucking

success requiring infant's active effort, and anthropometric measurements in preterm infants having a gestational age of 29-34 weeks.

## METHODS

### Study Design

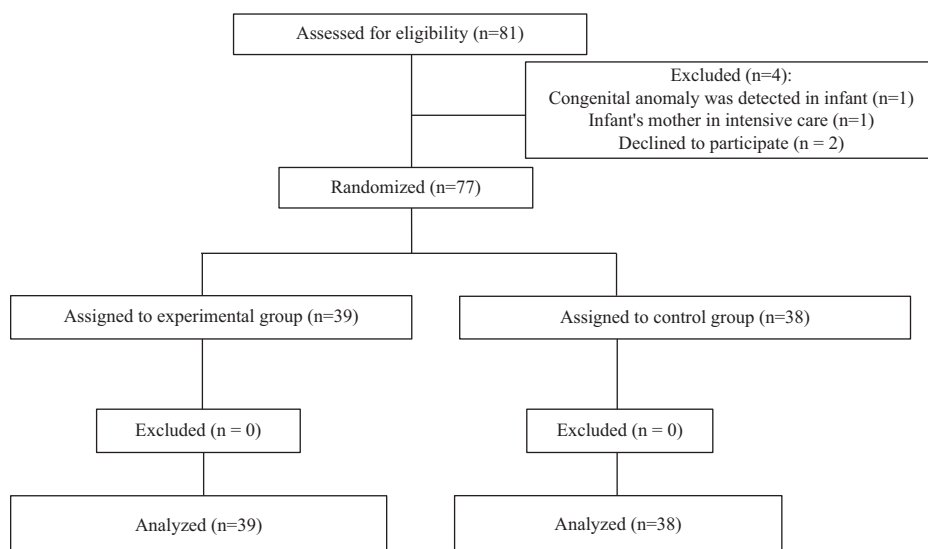
The study was conducted as the randomized controlled and double-blind experimental trial. This study was guided by the CONSORT checklist.<sup>22</sup>

### Participants

The study was conducted at NICU of the university hospital located in eastern Turkey between May 5, 2017, and March 19, 2018. The preterm infants were randomly allocated to 2 groups, experimental group and control group, by a computer-generated number table. The sample consisted of 77 preterm infants (39 in the experimental group and 38 in the control group) who met the inclusion criteria. The gestational weeks when babies are born were grouped as follows: 29-30 weeks, 31-32 weeks, and 33-34 weeks. In this study, only 1 researcher (first author) who was not included in the intensive care team administered OMS to all the infants. Thus, the families and the NICU team were double blinded. The required sample size was determined according to the power analysis. The post-hoc power analysis performed for the sample size revealed that the power of the study was 97% on including 39 preterm infants in the experimental group and 38 preterm infants in the control group, at a significance level of 0.05 and CI of 95% (Figure 1).<sup>23</sup>

The inclusion criteria of the study were as follows:

- have born between the 29th and 34th gestational weeks,
- have height and weight appropriate for their gestational week,
- have stable vital signs,
- have APGAR scores between 4 and 10 in the first and fifth minutes, The Apgar score is a measure of an infant's condition after birth. It helps decide if an infant needs immediate treatment or monitoring.
- has passed 48 hours after having received mechanical ventilation and/or continuous positive airway pressure.



**Figure 1.** CONSORT flow diagram.

The exclusion criteria of the study were as follows:

- have asphyxia,
- have intraventricular bleeding,
- have a congenital anomaly,
- have being unable to breastfeed for any reason,
- infants without their mothers.

### Data Collection

The preterm infants in the experimental and control groups received similar care at the same NICU, and all patients were monitored. The researcher participated in an individualized developmental care and massage course at the NICU and consulted with a specialist physiotherapist about oral structures and swallowing. The feeding plan was established in line with the NICU's feeding protocol for all the infants included in the study. Traditional feeding, which is also known as volume-driven feeding, was used in the NICU. The decision to change to parenteral, enteral, or oral feeding was made by the neonatologist and neonatal nurse. According to the aforementioned protocol, mothers of all babies hospitalized in the NICU were trained by the intensive care nurses on spoon-feeding. Oral feeding for the infants in the NICU was supplemented by spoon-feeding when necessary, never by bottle feeding. The researchers made no changes to this protocol.

After the infants were assessed by a neonatologist, OMS was administered to the experimental group thrice a day (at 9:00 AM, 12:00 noon, and 3:00 PM) for 15 minutes right before feeding, over a 14-day period. It took 15 minutes to apply the OMS by lightly touching their cheeks, lips, gums, and tongue with fingertips for the first 12 minutes, followed by letting the infant suck on a pacifier for the remaining 3 minutes. The preterm infants in the control group were only fed by the researcher thrice a day (at 9:00 AM, 12:00 noon, and 3:00 PM) over a 14-day period. Thus, the health team taking care of the preterm infant was blinded. In case conditions such as decrease in oxygen saturation, apnea, or bradycardia were observed during the use of OMS, the procedure was either stopped entirely or postponed until the infant re-stabilized. During the use of OMS, different pacifiers were employed for each infant, and they were sterilized after every use. The neonatologist

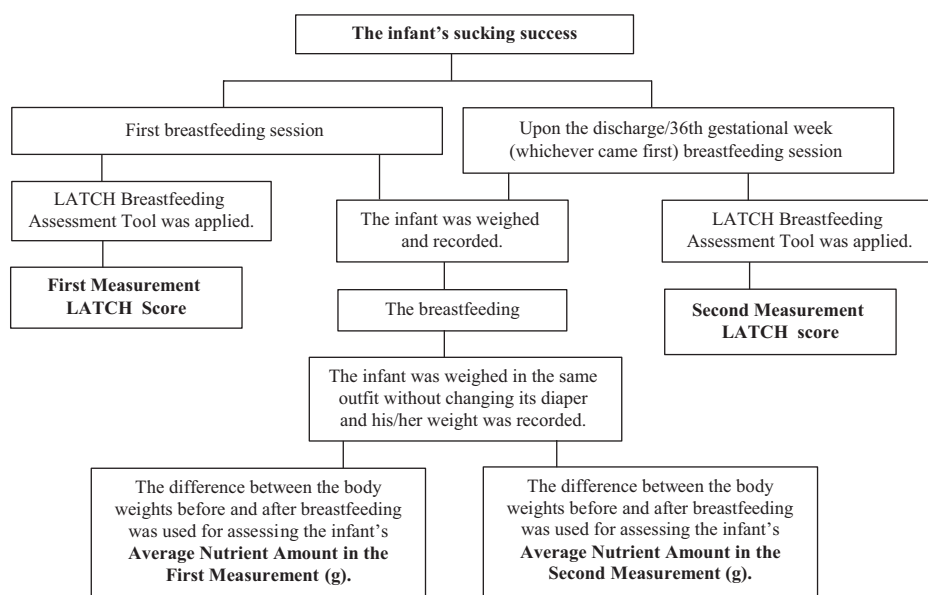
made the decision regarding discharge of the infants. The infants in both groups were followed up until they were discharged from the hospital.

The "Preterm Infant Data Collection Form" used in the study had 4 sections and was prepared by the researchers in line with the literature.<sup>12,25,26</sup> The first section contained questions asking the descriptive details about the mother and infant, the second contained questions about anthropometric measurements, the third addressed parenteral and oral feeding times, and fourth included information with regard to hospitalization and discharge.

### Instruments

The "LATCH Breastfeeding Assessment Tool" was developed by Jensen et al.<sup>27</sup> Demirhan<sup>28-31</sup> conducted its Turkish validity test and revealed that it is a reliable and easy-to-use scale. Each criterion is rated in the point range of 0-2 points. LATCH acronym is composed of the initial letters L: Latch on breast, A: Audible swallowing, T: Type of nipple, C: Confort nipple, and H: Hold. Breastfeeding is then assessed based on the sum of these scores. The highest and lowest scores of the tool are 10 and 0, respectively, and higher scores signify the breastfeeding/sucking success. In the present study, this tool's Cronbach's  $\alpha$  value was 0.74. Since the tool is an observational form, it was filled out by the researcher and an observing nurse. The observer was the executive nurse who did not provide primary care to the preterm infants included in the study. The researcher and observer both filled out the form simultaneously and independently at 2 breastfeeding periods for every preterm infant. The observer was double blinded while filling the form. The Cohen's kappa coefficient was examined to assess the agreement between the researcher and observer. The first evaluation of the LATCH breastfeeding assessment form ( $K=0.938$ ) and its second evaluation during the discharge ( $K=0.964$ ) revealed that there was a good level of agreement between the 2 assessments.

The time of transition to full enteral feeding refers to the period from the first hospitalization day to the day when parenteral feeding was terminated and full enteral feeding was started. This time was assessed as the number of days in the present study.



**Figure 2.** The process of evaluating the feeding success in a preterm infant.

The preterm infant was said to have achieved full oral feeding on accomplishing 4 successive oral feedings without any decrease in oxygen saturation ( $SpO_2 < 85\%$ ) or developing any apnea and bradycardia throughout feeding after the orogastric catheter was completely removed. This transition period from first hospitalization to full oral feeding was calculated in days. The preterm infant's body weight, length, and head circumference measurements during birth, at 1 week after birth (physiological weight loss), and at either the 36th gestational week or upon discharge (whichever came first) were measured. Likewise, Z-scores as well as the infant's growth rate, body weight, length, and head circumference were assessed.<sup>32</sup> The success in sucking was evaluated based on the LATCH mean scores and average nutrient intakes of the first and second measurements (Figure 2). The first breastfeeding session was taken as the first measurement (for once). The second measurement was done at 36 weeks of gestation (for once). Preterm infants discharged before the 36th gestational week were evaluated just before discharge.

The length of hospital stay was calculated as the period from hospital admission to the discharge date. The discharge week was accepted as the gestational week covering the date of the discharge.

#### Ethical Consideration

Prior to commencing the study, an ethical approval (dated 05.05.2017, numbered: B.30.2.ATA.0.01.00/42) from the Ataturk University Medical Faculty Clinical Trials Ethics Committee and permission from the relevant institution were obtained.

#### Statistical Analysis

The data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 22.0 (IBM SPSS Corp., Armonk, NY, USA). The chi-square test (for non-normal distributions) was used for categorical variables, while independent group *t*-test (for normal distributions) and Mann-Whitney *U*-test (for non-normal distributions) were used for continuous measurements. In addition, descriptive characteristics were analyzed using arithmetic mean, SD, and percentage. For the comparison of time of transition to full enteral feeding (day), time of transition to full oral feeding (day), LATCH mean score of the first measurement, LATCH mean score of the second measurement, length of stay in hospital (days), body weight (g), bodyweight Z-score, height (cm), height Z-score, head circumference (cm), and head circumference Z-score parameters between the intervention and the control group, independent group *t*-test (for normal distributions) were used. For the average nutrient amount of the first measurement (g), average nutrient amount of the second measurement (g), and discharge/gestational week parameters between the intervention and the control group, independent group Mann-Whitney *U*-test (for non-normal distributions) was used. Skewness and kurtosis factors were used in the normality distribution of data, while Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient was used for internal consistency. For all the analyses, the value of  $P < .05$  was accepted as significant.

## RESULTS

Thirty-nine preterm infants were assigned to the intervention group and 38 preterm infants were assigned to the control group. There were no significant differences in demographics between the 2 groups (Table 1).

The LATCH mean scores for the first ( $P < .001$ ) and second ( $P = .001$ ) measurements and average nutrient intake for the

**Table 1. Comparison of Descriptive Characteristics of Experimental and Control Groups**

Characteristics	Experimental Group		Control Group		Test	P
	Mean	%	Mean	%		
Gender						
Girl	14	35.9	12	31.6	$\chi^2 = 0.160$	.689
Boy	25	64.1	26	68.4		
Gestational age week						
29-30	14	35.9	12	31.6	$\chi^2 = 0.169$	.919
31-32	17	43.6	18	47.4		
32-33	8	20.5	8	21.1		
Mother's pregnancy number						
Primiparous	18	46.2	16	42.1	$\chi^2 = 0.128$	.721
Multiparous	21	53.8	22	57.9		
	Mean $\pm$ SD		Mean $\pm$ SD			
Gestational week	31.33 $\pm$ 1.56		31.26 $\pm$ 1.60		$t = 0.194$	.846
Birth weight (g)	1595.56 $\pm$ 302.27		1605.68 $\pm$ 338.96		$t = 0.138$	.890
Birth weight Z-score	-0.04 $\pm$ -0.85		-0.00 $\pm$ -0.66		$t = -0.251$	.803
Birth height (cm)	40.91 $\pm$ 3.20		41.18 $\pm$ 3.62		$t = -0.352$	.726
Birth height Z-score	-0.37 $\pm$ 0.94		-0.77 $\pm$ 1.15		$t = 0.919$	.104
Birth head circumference (cm)	29.09 $\pm$ 2.04		29.15 $\pm$ 2.07		$t = -0.145$	.885
Birth head circumference Z-score	0.33 $\pm$ 1.13		0.41 $\pm$ 1.02		$t = -0.307$	.759
First-minute APGAR	6.23 $\pm$ 1.40		5.57 $\pm$ 1.68		$t = 1.845$	.069
Fifth-minute APGAR	7.87 $\pm$ 1.23		7.71 $\pm$ 1.22		$t = 0.573$	.568
Length of stay in mechanical ventilator	0.07 $\pm$ 0.26		1.02 $\pm$ 1.02		$Z = -0.866$	.386
Length of stay in CPAP	3.12 $\pm$ 5.55		2.92 $\pm$ 5.03		$t = 0.171$	.865
Mother's age	30.00 $\pm$ 6.24		29.39 $\pm$ 5.86		$t = 0.438$	.662
Physiological weight loss (g)	-51.02 $\pm$ 91.29		-21.42 $\pm$ 78.30		$t = -1.526$	.131

CPAP, continuous positive airway pressure; SD, standard deviation.

second ( $P = .005$ ) measurements were significantly higher in the experimental group. On the other hand, the length of stay in hospital in the experimental group (23.64  $\pm$  12.00) was shorter than that of the control group (29.15  $\pm$  13.50), and this was not statistically significant ( $P = .062$ ) (Table 2).

## DISCUSSION

In the present study, only 1 researcher who was not included in the intensive care team administered OMS to all the infants. The sample size of the study was sufficient, as determined by the power analysis. The descriptive characteristics of the experimental and control groups were similar.

In this study, the time of transition to full enteral feeding was similar in both groups. Ghomi et al<sup>33</sup> and Thakkar et al<sup>34</sup> had obtained

**Table 2. Data Concerning Transition to Enteral and Oral Feeding, Latch Score, Discharge Day and Week, and Anthropometric Values in the Discharge/36th Gestational Week**

Characteristics	Experimental Group		Control Group		Test	P
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Time of transition to full enteral feeding (day)	4.64	4.53	5.50	10.96	$t = -0.909$	.366
Time of transition to full oral feeding (day)	16.76	10.96	24.05	13.25	$t = -2.630$	.010
LATCH of the first measurement	7.23	1.54	5.84	1.48	$t = 4.023$	< .001
Nutrient amount of the first measurement (g)	4.74	7.94	1.84	4.71	$Z = -2.152$	.031
LATCH of the second measurement	9.25	1.27	8.15	1.44	$t = 3.547$	.001
Nutrient amount of the second measurement (g)	18.43	18.03	8.15	11.64	$Z = -2.801$	.005
Length of stay in hospital (days)	23.64	12.00	29.15	13.50	$t = 1.896$	.062
Discharge/ gestational week	34.48	1.02	35.39	1.34	$Z = -3.044$	.002
Body weight (g)	1919.48	171.93	2049.21	199.07	$t = 3.063$	.030
Body weight Z-score	-1.06	0.72	-1.10	0.60	$t = 0.297$	.767
Height (cm)	44.25	1.88	44.02	2.57	$t = 0.448$	.655
Height Z-score	-0.37	0.94	-0.77	1.15	$t = 0.919$	.104
Head circumference (cm)	31.33	1.38	31.61	1.14	$t = 0.983$	.329
Head circumference Z-score	-0.13	0.96	-0.39	0.80	$t = 1.305$	.196

similar results as well. The time of transition to full enteral feeding approximately corresponded to the fourth hospitalization day in the experimental group and the fifth hospitalization day in the control group. Preterm infants face respiratory problems more frequently in the initial days of life, which means that they are in greater need of respiration support. The fourth/fifth hospitalization days may coincide with times when the preterm infant tries to adapt to extrauterine life, and some parameters like respiration fail to stabilize. The failure to provide stability to the infants' overall condition had hindered the use of OMS. Considering that infants adapt to extrauterine life quickly and successfully, the time of transition to full enteral feeding corresponds with the early periods of OMS. At least 10 OMS sessions are required for an effective oral feeding performance.<sup>7,35,36</sup> In the early periods, OMS has a short-term and temporary effect.<sup>37</sup> Since the baseline

characteristics of the groups were also similar, it was expected that there was no difference between the experimental and control groups with respect to the transition time to full enteral feeding.

In the present study, the transition time to full oral feeding was approximately 8 days less in the experimental group than in the control group. Similarly, Fucile et al<sup>12</sup> found that preterm infants receiving OMS transitioned to full oral feeding approximately 7 days earlier, and Fucile et al<sup>38</sup> found that such preterm infants started full oral feeding 9 days earlier; thus indicating a significant result.<sup>12,38</sup> Although some studies have reported that the group receiving OMS has an earlier transition to oral feeding,<sup>16,25,26,34,39-42</sup> others have suggested that there is no difference between the experimental and control groups in terms of the transition time to full oral feeding.<sup>14,43-45</sup>

The results of the present study support the view that the preterm infants receiving OMS had better sucking success. Lyu et al.<sup>25</sup> indicated that the feeding period was shorter in the preterm infants receiving OMS, while Bala et al.<sup>40</sup> reported that OMS improved the oral feeding skills of preterm infants. Moreover, Li et al<sup>41</sup> revealed that OMS significantly improved the non-nutritive sucking and feeding parameters (e.g., oral posture, oral reflexes, and behavioral organization) in preterm infants. These studies have indicated that development of sucking is not only an innate reflex depending on neurophysiological maturity but also a skill that can be improved with OMS.<sup>46</sup> Moreover, the results of our study support the results of the aforementioned studies.

The body weight (g) of the preterm infants in the control group during discharge/36th (discharged before the 36th gestational week was evaluated just before discharge) gestational week was found to be higher than those receiving OMS. The studies by Lyu et al<sup>25</sup> and Rocha et al.<sup>26</sup> assessed the body weight in grams and found that body weight of the preterm infants in the control group during discharge was higher, which corroborated with our study results. Coker-Bolt et al<sup>16</sup>, Costa et al<sup>33</sup>, Ghomi et al<sup>44</sup>, and Younesian et al<sup>45</sup> assessed body weight in grams and found no difference in the body weight during discharge. Lack of standard methods for calculating the growth rate in preterm infants makes the comparison between the studies difficult and hinders the transfer of the study results into clinical practice.<sup>24</sup> In order to minimize this problem, the body weight, length, and head circumference Z-score assessments standardizing the growth rate in preterm infants are used by considering variables such as gender differences.<sup>32</sup> In the present study, there were no differences between the infants receiving and not receiving OMS in terms of the body weight Z-scores during the discharge/36th (discharged before the 36th gestational week was evaluated just before discharge) gestational week. Upon review, no study assessing body weight with Z-scoring was found. In this study, there was a significant difference in the body weight measured in grams; however, there was no difference in body weight assessed with Z-scoring. This data emphasizes the necessity of using standardized assessments and explains the conflicting result.

In the present study, the preterm infants in the experimental group were discharged approximately 6 days earlier than the control group, but this difference was not statistically significant. Similarly, there are studies suggesting that there is no significant difference between preterm infants receiving and not receiving OMS in terms of the duration of hospitalization.<sup>12,14,25,38</sup>

Aguilar-Rodriguez et al<sup>16</sup>, Ghomi et al<sup>33</sup>, Mahmoodi et al<sup>39</sup>, and Younesian et al<sup>42</sup> stated that the preterm infants receiving OMS were discharged significantly earlier. Coker-Bolt et al<sup>44</sup> stated that the preterm infants receiving OMS following a cardiac operation were discharged significantly earlier. Treatment and care of preterm infants are a great burden for healthcare professionals. As the gestational week decreases in preterm infants, the treatment and care costs increase.<sup>47</sup> Although the discharge of 6 days in the present study was not statistically significant, this supports the view that OMS is a cost-effective option.

The preterm infants receiving OMS were discharged in earlier gestational weeks, and Rocha et al<sup>26</sup> showed similar results. The most important criteria for discharge are weight gain and ability to feed orally. Moreover, feeding problems are the most common reason for prolonged hospitalization period.<sup>8,9</sup> Because the preterm infants receiving OMS started oral feeding earlier and had more advanced feeding skills in this study, they may have been discharged in earlier gestational weeks.

Based on the results of this study, OMS is recommended in NICUs to support and develop the sucking and feeding skills of preterm infants transitioning from enteral feeding to oral feeding and utilize international standard values to assess the growth rate of preterm infants.

### Study Limitations

The results cannot be generalized to preterm infants in other countries but can be generalized to the infants participating in the study.

**Ethics Committee Approval:** Ethics committee approval was received for this study from the ethics committee of Atatürk University (Date: May 5, 2017, Number: B.30.2.ATA.0.01.00/42).

**Informed Consent:** All of the parents of the infants who were included in the study were informed about the purpose of the study and were allowed to participate upon obtaining written consent.

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# Doğum Korkusu Yaşayan Annelerin Doğum Deneyimleri: Fenomenolojik Bir Çalışma

## Birth Experiences of the Mothers Who Have Fear of Birth: A Phenomenological Study

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### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Her gebeye pozitif bir doğum deneyimi sunabilmek için kadınların doğum sürecine yönelik endişelerini, korkularını açığa çıkarmak ve bu doğrultuda bakım vermek önemlidir. Bu çalışmanın amacı doğum endişesi yüksek olan kadınların doğum deneyimlerini açığa çıkarmaktır.

**Yöntemler:** Bu çalışma fenomenolojik yaklaşımla yürütülmüş nitel bir çalışmadır. Veriler Birey Tanıtım Formu, Oxford Doğum Endişesi Ölçeği ve Yarı Yapılandırılmış Derinlemesine Görüşme Formu kullanılarak, bireysel derinlemesine görüşme yöntemi ile İzmir'de bir eğitim araştırma hastanesinin kadın doğum kliniğinde toplanmıştır. Çalışmaya 18 yaş ve üzerinde olan, Türkçe konuşabilen ve anlayabilen, primipar, 37-42. gebelik haftası aralığında canlı vajinal doğum yapan, Oxford Doğum Endişesi Ölçeğinden 30 puanın altında puan almış olan anneler ( $24,00 \pm 3,10$ ) dâhil edilmiştir. Görüşmelere veri doygunluğuna ulaşılan kadar devam edilmiş olup, 13 anne ile çalışma tamamlanmıştır. Veri analizi için geleneksel içerik analizi yöntemi kullanılmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Çalışmaya katılan kadınların yaş ortalaması  $23,54 \pm 4,03$  yıldır. Kadınların hiçbirinin doğuma hazırlık sınıfına katılmadığı, ortalama doğum süresinin  $7,46 \pm 3,84$  saat olduğu, %61,5'ine induksiyon, tümüne ise epizyotomi uygulandığı belirlenmiştir. Çalışmada nitel verilerin içerik analizi sonucunda 'Etkileyen Faktörler', 'Ambivalan Duygular', 'Akılda Kalanlar' ve 'Tercihler/Talepler' olmak üzere dört ana ve sekiz alt tema belirlenmiştir. Katılımcılarda doğum deneyimini fiziksel ortam, bilgi düzeyi, doğuma ilişkin beklenti ve duygular gibi birçok faktörün etkilediği, doğum sürecinde ambivalan duyguların hâkim olduğu bulunmuştur. Kadınların çoğu bebeğine kavuşma anı ve doğum ağrısının aklında yer ettiğini, yanlarında eşlerinin olmasını istediğini ve tüm zorluklara rağmen ileride tekrar vajinal doğum yapmak istediklerini ifade etmiştir.

**Sonuç:** Çalışma sonucunda doğum deneyimini etkileyen faktörler göz önünde bulundurularak kadınların pozitif bir doğum deneyimi için antenatal dönemde doğuma hazırlık sınıflarına katılmaları yönünde teşvik edilmelidir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Deneyim, doğum korkusu, fenomenolojik, hemşirelik

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** In order to provide a positive birth experience to every pregnant woman, it is important to reveal women's concerns and fears about the birth process and to provide care in this direction. The purpose of this study is to reveal the birth experiences of women who have high birth anxiety.

**Methods:** This study is a qualitative study conducted with a phenomenological approach. Data were collected in the obstetrics clinic of a training and research hospital in İzmir by individual in-depth interview method using the Individual Description Form, Oxford Worries About Labour Scale, and Semi-Structured In-depth Interview Form. Mothers who were 18 years of age and older could speak and understand Turkish, were primiparous, had a live vaginal delivery between 37 and 42 weeks of gestation, and scored less than 30 ( $24.00 \pm 3.10$ ) on the Oxford Worries About Labour Scale were included in the study. Interviews continued until data saturation was reached, and the study was completed with 13 mothers. Traditional content analysis method was used for data analysis.

**Results:** The mean age of the women participating in the study was  $23.54 \pm 4.03$  years. It was determined that none of the women attended the childbirth preparation class, the mean delivery

time was 7.46 ± 3.84 hours, and induction was applied to 61.5% and episiotomy was applied to all of them. In this study, as a result of the content analysis of the qualitative data obtained from the study, 4 main themes were determined as “Influencing Factors,” “Ambivalent Emotions,” “Memorables,” and “Preferences/Demands” and 8 sub-themes were determined. It was found that many factors such as physical environment, level of knowledge, expectation, and sensations about birth affect the birth experience of the participants, and ambivalent emotions dominate during the birth process. Most of the women stated that moment of reunion with their baby and the pain of childbirth are on their minds, they wanted their husbands with them, and they wanted to have a vaginal birth again in the future despite all the difficulties.

**Conclusion:** Considering the factors affecting the birth experience as a result of the study, women should be encouraged to attend antenatal preparation classes for a positive birth experience.

**Keywords:** Experience, fear of birth, phenomenological, nursing

## GİRİŞ

Gebelik, bebek sahibi ve ebeveyn olma gibi pozitif duygular ile dolu olan bir dönemdir.<sup>1</sup> Fakat bunun yanı sıra gebeliğin öğrenilmesiyle birlikte kadında doğum sürecine ilişkin bazı endişeler başlamaktadır. Doğum, kadının yaşamında duygusal ve fiziksel anlamda kısa ve uzun vadeli etkileri olan önemli bir olaydır. Öngörülemez bir süreç olması nedeniyle doğum, kadınlarda endişe ve korku yaratmaktadır.<sup>2</sup> Doğum korkusu olarak bilinen tokofobinin küresel prevalansı değişmekle birlikte %9-36,7 olarak belirtilmektedir.<sup>3,4</sup> Kadınların, doğum sürecine yönelik endişelenmesine, korkmasına neden olan birçok faktör olabilmektedir. Bunlar arasında kendilerini neyin beklediğini, süreç içerisinde ne ile karşılaşacaklarını bilmemek, önceki doğum deneyimi, doğum ağrısı, indüksiyon uygulanabileceği, bebeğin ya da kendi sağlığının zarar görebileceği hatta ölebileceği, epizyotomi uygulanması, utanma, doğumda çaresiz ve yalnız hissetme bulunmaktadır.<sup>5,6</sup>

Her kadın gebeliğinin sonunda olumlu bir doğum deneyimi yaşamayı hayal etmektedir. Kabul edilebilir düzeyde yaşanan doğum endişesi veya korkusu, gebenin doğuma hazırlanmasını sağlamak ve doğum sürecini pozitif etkileyebilmektedir. Fakat yaşanan doğum korkusunun şiddetinin fazla olması; doğum sürecini ve kadının doğum deneyimini negatif yönde etkilemektedir.<sup>6,7</sup> Çünkü doğum korkusu, doğum sürecini uzatabilir ve gebenin doğum ağrısı algısını artırabilir.<sup>8,9</sup> Her gebenin doğum deneyimi kendine özgü ve benzersizdir. Doğum korkusu başta olmak üzere doğum deneyimini birçok faktör etkilemektedir. Bu nedenle bazı gebeler doğum deneyimini zevkli, mutlu, güzel olarak; bazıları ise zor, korkunç, kötü, acı verici olarak değerlendirir.<sup>10,11</sup> Doğum ile ilgili endişe düzeyi yüksek olan gebelerin doğum süreci ile baş etme becerileri yetersiz kalacağından doğum deneyimleri olumsuz olacak ve doğum memnuniyeti de azalacaktır.<sup>12,13</sup> Doğum süreci ile ilgili endişe düzeyinin fazla olması anne sağlığı ve doğum deneyimini olumsuz etkilemesinin yanı sıra fetal sağlığı da olumsuz yönde etkilediği bilinmektedir.<sup>8,10,14</sup> Maternal ve fetal sağlığı arttırmak, obstetrik komplikasyonları azaltmak ve pozitif doğum deneyimi sunmak için gebelerin doğum ile ilgili endişelerini, korkularını azaltmak veya baş edebilmelerini sağlamak önem arz etmektedir.

Doğum süreci boyunca gebenin yanında olan sağlık profesyonelleri, gebelerin endişe, korku ve ağrısı ile baş etmesinde yardımcı olmaktadır. Dünya Sağlık Örgütü'nün (DSÖ) önerdiği şekilde her gebeye pozitif bir doğum deneyimi sunabilmek için gebelerin doğum eylemi ile ilgili hangi konuda daha fazla endişe duyduklarını belirlemek, doğum endişesi yüksek olan gebelerin doğum deneyimlerini açığa çıkarmak ve bu doğrultuda bakım vermek bakımın

kalitesini arttıracaktır. Bu nedenle bu çalışmanın amacı kadınların doğum süreci ile ilgili endişelerini belirlemek ve doğum endişesi yüksek olan kadınların doğum deneyimlerini açığa çıkarmaktır.

## YÖNTEM

### Araştırmanın Tipi

Bu çalışma içerik analizi yöntemi kullanılarak fenomenolojik yaklaşımla yürütülmüş nitel bir çalışmadır.

### Araştırmanın Evreni ve Örneklemi

Araştırmanın evrenini Temmuz 2018-Aralık 2018 tarihleri arasında İzmir'de bir eğitim ve araştırma hastanesinin kadın doğum kliniğinde postpartum takibi yapılan anneler oluşturmaktadır. Nitel araştırmaların doğası gereği örneklem seçimine gidilmemiş, dâhil edilme kriterlerine uyan anneler ile veri doygunluğu sağlanıncaya kadar derinlemesine görüşmeler yapılmıştır. Çalışmaya 18 yaş ve üzerinde olan, Türkçe konuşabilen ve anlayabilen, primipar, 37-42. gebelik haftası aralığında canlı vajinal doğum yapan, Oxford Doğum Endişesi Ölçeğinden 30 puanın altında puan almış olan anneler dâhil edilmiştir. Verilerin 13. görüşmede doygunluğa ulaşması nedeniyle araştırmanın örneklemini 13 anne oluşturmuştur.

### Veri Toplama Araçları

Çalışmanın verileri Birey Tanıtım Formu, Oxford Doğum Endişesi Ölçeği ve Yarı Yapılandırılmış Derinlemesine Görüşme Formu ile bireysel derinlemesine görüşme yöntemi kullanılarak araştırmacılar tarafından toplanmıştır.

Derinlemesine görüşme yöntemi kullanılarak, kalabalıkta konuşulmaktan kaçınılabilecek duyarlı bir konu olan kadınların vajinal doğum deneyimleri hakkında anneler ile tek tek görüşülüp, konuyu derinlemesine inceleme fırsatı sağlanmıştır.

**Birey Tanıtım Formu:** Literatür doğrultusunda<sup>15-18</sup> oluşturulan form kadınların sosyodemografik özelliklerini içeren 12 sorudan oluşmaktadır. Bu formda kadınların yaşı, aile özellikleri, gebelik ve doğum süreci hakkında sorular yer almaktadır.

**Oxford Doğum Endişesi Ölçeği (ODEÖ):** Redshaw ve ark. tarafından<sup>19</sup> 2009 yılında kadınların doğum sürecine yönelik endişelerini değerlendirmek için psikometrik olarak geliştirilmiş 10 maddelik bir ölçüm aracıdır. Ölçeğin Türkçe geçerlik ve güvenilirliği Aksoy ve Özentürk tarafından<sup>20</sup> yapılmıştır. Ölçek doğum öncesi, sırası ve sonrası tüm dönemlerde kadınlara uygulanabilen dörtlü likert tipinde bir ölçektir. Değerlendirme toplam puan üzerinden yapılmakta olup, puan arttıkça “kadınların endişe düzeyi azalıyor” şeklinde yorumlanmaktadır. Ölçekten alınacak minimum puan 10, maksimum puan ise 40'tır. Ölçeğin kesme noktası olmayıp, değişim aralığı (range değeri) 30'dur.<sup>19,20</sup> Türkçe geçerlik ve güvenilirlik

çalışmasında Cronbach alfa değeri 0,83 olarak saptanmış,<sup>20</sup> bu çalışmada ise 0,97 olarak bulunmuştur.

**Yarı Yapılandırılmış Derinlemesine Görüşme Formu:** Görüşme formunda, ilk kez vajinal doğum deneyimi yaşayan kadınların doğum sürecine ilişkin endişeleri, düşünceleri, neler hissettikleri ve yaşadıkları ile ilgili sorular yer almaktadır. Hazırlanan görüşme formu altı soru içermektedir. Sorular için doğum ve kadın hastalıkları hemşireliği alanında ve nitel araştırma konusunda uzman olan üç kişiden görüş alınarak bu görüşlere göre form yeniden düzenlendi. Veri toplama sürecine başlamadan önce iki anne ile pilot görüşme yapılarak soruların anlaşılabilirliği ve yeni soru ihtiyacı belirlendi. Bu görüşmeden sonra bir soru daha eklenerek form toplam yedi sorudan oluşturuldu (Tablo 1).

#### Verilerin Toplanması

Çalışmada kadınlara postpartum ilk 24 saat içerisinde Oxford Doğum Endişesi Ölçeği uygulanmış, toplam ölçek puanı 30 ve altı olan annelerin doğum endişesi yüksek kabul edilmiş ve bu anneler ile derinlemesine görüşme yapılmıştır. Görüşmeler araştırmacılar tarafından ses kayıt özelliği bulunan Android işlemcili mobil cihaz kullanılarak yürütülmüştür. Araştırmacı görüşmeler sırasında yönlendirici sorulardan kaçınmış ve iletişim kurallarına uygun olarak özetleme ve somutlaştırma ilkelerine dikkat etmiştir. Görüşmeler, katılımcının kendini rahat hissettiği sessiz bir ortam olan kliniğin toplantı odasında mahremiyete önem verilerek yapılmıştır.

#### Verilerin Değerlendirilmesi

Araştırmadan elde edilen nitel verilerin analizinde geleneksel (konvansiyonel) içerik analizi yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Verilerin analizinde, görüşmelerin hemen sonunda aynı gün içinde ses kayıtları, kelimesi kelimesine (verbatim) yazılmıştır. Çalışmada toplam 140 dakika görüşme yapılmış, görüşmeler ortalama 10,76 dakika sürmüş olup toplam 50 sayfa veri çözümlenmiştir. Kayıtların düz metne aktarımında kadınların isimleri kullanılmamış, her katılımcının ses kaydı 1, 2, 3 gibi sayısal numaralarla gösterilmiştir. Elde edilen veriler, anlamsal olarak benzerliklerine göre birleştirilip ve bu görüşleri temsil edebilecek kod isimleri oluşturulmuştur. Kodlar anlam bütünlüğüne göre gruplandırılıp bu kodları temsil edebilecek, ana temalar ve alt temalar oluşturulmuştur.<sup>21</sup> Temalar, alt temalar ve analiz sonuçları, konsensüs için nitel araştırma ve

kadın sağlığı alanında uzman olan araştırmacılar dışındaki üç farklı kişi tarafından değerlendirilmiştir.

#### Araştırmanın Geçerlik ve Güvenirliği

Nitel araştırmalarda geçerlik ve güvenilirlik için kesin bir yöntem bulunmamaktadır.<sup>22,23</sup> Araştırmanın geçerlik ve güvenilirliği için öncelikle kurumlardan ve katılımcılardan gerekli etik izinler alınmıştır. Bu çalışmada güvenilirlik, araştırma sürecinin her bir aşaması, veriler detaylı ve açık bir şekilde tanımlanarak sağlanmıştır. Verilerin analizinde olumlu ve olumsuz ifadeler yer verilmiştir. Araştırmanın verilerini birden fazla araştırmacının okuması ve tema/alt temalar konusunda fikir birliğine varılmış olması araştırmanın güvenilirliğini arttıran bir durumdur. Araştırmanın geçerliği için ise, araştırmacılar süreç boyunca kişisel yargılardan kaçınmış ve annelerin ifadeleri değiştirilmeden doğrudan alıntılarına yer verilmiştir. Derinlemesine görüşmeler sırasında bir araştırmacı gözlemci olarak görüşmeye katılmış, diğer araştırmacı görüşmeyi sürdürmüştür. Gözlemci araştırmacı her görüşme ile ilgili olarak notlar tutmuştur.<sup>21</sup> İki araştırmacının görüşmeye katılması konusunda katılımcıların onayları alınmıştır. Aynı zamanda araştırmacıların anladıklarını doğrulamak ve geçerliği sağlamak amacıyla araştırmanın tema ve alt temalar belirlendikten sonra katılımcı teyidi alınmıştır. Araştırma verilerinin nitel araştırma konusunda uzman farklı iki kişi tarafından değerlendirme ve karşılaştırması yapılmıştır.

#### Araştırmacıların Rolü

Çalışmada görüşmeyi yürüten araştırmacılar verilerin toplandığı kurumdan farklı bir kurumda çalışmaktadır. Araştırmacılar doğum, kadın sağlığı ve hastalıkları hemşireliği alanında uzmandır.

#### Araştırmanın Etiği

Araştırmanın yürütülebilmesi için çalışmanın yürütüldüğü izmir Katip Çelebi Üniversitesi Girişimsel Olmayan Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu'ndan (10.10.2018 tarihli 313 karar numaralı) ve araştırmanın yürütüldüğü kurumdan izin alınmıştır. Çalışmanın amacı katılımcılara ayrıntılı olarak açıklanmıştır. Görüşmelerin yapılması ve kaydedilmesi için katılımcılardan bilgilendirilmiş onam alınmıştır. Katılımcılar, katılımın gönüllülük esasına dayalı olduğu, gizlilik ve mahremiyet haklarının saklı tutulacağı ve istedikleri zaman çalışmadan çekilebilecekleri hakkında bilgilendirilmiştir. Ayrıca araştırmada kullanılan ölçeğin Türkçe geçerlik güvenilirliğini yapan yazarlardan ölçeğin kullanılabilmesi için de izin alınmıştır.

## BULGULAR

Çalışmaya katılan kadınların yaş ortalaması 23,54 ± 4,03 yıl olup, %84,6'sı lise ve üzeri mezun, %84,6'sı çalışmıyor, %61,5'inin geliri gidere eşit ve %76,9'unun gebeliği planlıdır. Eşlerinin %53,8'i lise ve üzeri mezun ve hepsi çalışmaktadır. Kadınların hepsi doğuma hazırlık sınıfına katılmadığını belirtmiştir. Çalışmaya katılan kadınların doğum süresi ortalama 7,46 ± 3,84 saat sürmüş olup %61,5'ine indüksiyon, tümüne ise epizyotomi uygulanmıştır. Çalışmaya katılan kadınların ODEÖ toplam puan ortalamaları 24,00 ± 3,10 (min-max=18-29)'dur (Tablo 2).

Çalışmadan elde edilen nitel verilerin içerik analizi sonucunda 'Etkileyen Faktörler', 'Ambivalan Duygular', 'Akılda Kalanlar' ve 'Tercihler/Talepler' olmak üzere dört ana tema ve sekiz alt tema belirlenmiştir (Şekil 1).

#### Ana Tema: Etkileyen Faktörler

Literatürde doğum deneyimini birçok faktörün etkilediği belirtilmektedir. Bu çalışmada da kadınların doğum deneyimleri incelendiğinde doğum sürecini etkileyen faktörler teması açığa

**Tablo 1. Yarı Yapılandırılmış Derinlemesine Görüşme Formu**

1. Doğum yapmadan önce vajinal/normal doğum hakkındaki olumlu/olumsuz düşünceleriniz nelerdi?
• Sondaj Soru: Daha önceden vajinal/normal doğum eylemi ile ilgili neler duymuştunuz?
2. Doğumhane kapısından ilk girdiğiniz anda neler hissettiniz?
• Sondaj Soru: Doğumhane ortamını/atmosferini nasıl tanımlarsınız?
• Sondaj Soru: Doğumhane ortamı sizi nasıl etkiledi?
3. Doğumunuz nasıl geçti? Doğum sürecinde neler yaşadınız?
• Sondaj Soru: travayda Sondaj Soru: doğum masasında
• Sondaj Soru: bebeğin doğum anında
• Sondaj Soru: epizyotomi atılırken
• Sondaj Soru: plasenta çıkarılırken
4. Doğumunuz ile ilgili aklınızda kalan en güzel/en olumlu şey nedir?
5. Doğumunuz ile ilgili aklınızda kalan en olumsuz şey nedir?
6. Doğumda yanınızda size destek olacak birisinin olması konusunda ne düşünüyorsunuz?
7. İleride tekrar vajinal/normal doğum yapma konusunda neler düşünüyorsunuz?

**Tablo 2. Araştırmaya katılan kadınların tanıtıcı özellikleri**

Tanıtıcı Özellikler		
	Ort ± SS (Min, Max)	
<b>Yaş Ortalaması (yıl)</b>	23,54 ± 4,03 (Min:19, Max:31)	
<b>Toplam doğum süresi (saat)</b>	7,46 ± 3,84 (Min:2, Max:14)	
<b>Oxford Doğum Endişesi Ölçeği Toplam Puan</b>	24,00 ± 3,10 (Min-Max=18-29)	
	Sayı (n)	Yüzde (%)
<b>Anne Eğitim Durumu</b>		
İlkokul/Ortaokul mezunu	2	15,4
Lise ve üzeri mezun	11	84,6
<b>Eşin Eğitim Durumu</b>		
İlkokul/Ortaokul mezunu	6	46,2
Lise ve üzeri mezun	7	53,8
<b>Çalışma Durumu</b>		
Çalışıyorum	2	15,4
Çalışmıyorum	11	84,6
<b>Eşin Çalışma Durumu</b>		
Çalışıyor	13	100,00
Çalışmıyor	-	-
<b>Sosyoekonomik durum</b>		
Gelir giderden az	5	38,5
Gelir gidere eşit	8	61,5
<b>Gebeliğin planlanması</b>		
Evet, planlı	10	76,9
Hayır, plansız fakat mutlu oldum	3	23,1
<b>Doğumhanede indüksiyon uygulanma durumu</b>		
Evet	8	61,5
Hayır	5	38,5
<b>Doğumda epizyotomi uygulanma durumu</b>		
Evet	13	100
Hayır	-	-
<b>Doğuma Hazırlık Sınıfına katılma durumu</b>		
Evet	-	-
Hayır	13	100
<b>Toplam</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>

Max: Maximum, Min: Minimum, Ort: Ortalama, SS: Standart sapma

çıkarılmıştır. Bu tema altında duyular, beklentiler, bilgi düzeyi ve fiziksel ortam olmak üzere dört alt tema belirlenmiştir.

### Duyular Alt Teması

Çalışmadaki kadınların çoğu mutlaka bir başkasının doğum deneyimini duymuş veya doğum ile ilgili konuşmalara şahit olmuştur. Bu durum kadınların doğum algısını dolaylı olarak da doğum deneyimlerini etkilemiştir. Çalışmaya katılan kadınların çoğu vajinal doğum hakkında çevreden daha çok olumlu şeyler duyduğunu ifade etmiştir. Kadınlar, doğum süreci ile ilgili olumlu olarak vajinal doğumun daha sağlıklı, iyileşmenin daha hızlı olduğunu ve bebeği ile daha iyi ilgilenebildiğini duyduklarını ifade etmiştir. Olumsuz olarak ise sancuların çok kötü olduğunu, uzun sürdüğünü ve ağrılı

bir süreç olduğunu belirtmiştir. Kadınların bazıları, doğum ile ilgili duyuların doğum şekli tercihini etkileyebileceğini ifade etmiştir.

*'Normal doğum daha sağlıklı diye duymuştum. Hemen ayağa kalkabiliyorsun o yüzden istiyordum. Sezaryen bayağı uzun sürüyor iyileşmesi. O yüzden normal doğum istedim.'* (2. Katılımcı)

*'En azından mesela sezeryana göre daha erken kalkıyorsun çocuğunla daha çok ilgilenebiliyorsun. Ondan sonra... ağrısını daha az çekiyorsun. öyle...elimden biliyorum mesela, sezeryan oldu her seferinde o mesela 20 gün boyunca yatakta yatıyor ama normal doğumda bir hafta içerisinde kalkabiliyorsun. Çocuğun ile daha çok ilgilenebiliyorsun mesela kucağına alırken ameliyat yerin falan yok daha rahat.'* (3. Katılımcı)

*'Ya bazıları sancuların kötü olduğunu, bebeğin zor geldiğini falan söylüyorlardı. Biraz da insan korkuyordu. Çoğu da zaten çevrenin doğum hikayelerini dinleye dinleye sezaryene çok yöneliyorlar. Son anda bile vazgeçen, beni sezaryene alın diyenler oluyor, olumsuz etkiliyor çevre.'* (1. Katılımcı)

### Beklentiler Alt Teması

Çalışmaya katılan kadınların doğum süreci ile ilgili beklentileri genellikle doğumun zor olacağı ve uzun süreceği yönünde olmuştur. Bunun yanı sıra kadınların doğum ortamı ve sosyal destek ile ilgili de beklentilerinin olduğu ortaya çıkmıştır.

*'Normal doğumun sezaryene göre daha zor olacağını düşünmüştüm aslında. Ama işte daha çabuk geçti benim için. Ben normal doğumu daha zor bir süreç olarak, daha uzun bir süreç olarak beklerken daha kısa olması beni mutlu etti tabii...'* (13. Katılımcı)

*'Ya aslında ben daha böyle doğumhane hep soğuk olur falan diye söylediklerinde öyle olur diye düşündüm. Bir de insanların böyle daha tepkisiz kalacağını düşündüm ama herkes çok ilgiliydi, doğumhane de iyiydi. Üşüyüp üşümediğimi bile kontrol ettikleri için, o bile beni daha motive etti yani.'* (13. Katılımcı)

*'Doğumhanede yalnız kalmam dışında bir şey (bir sorun) yoktu yani... Tabii ki de yanımda eşim olsun isterdim.'* (8. Katılımcı)

### Bilgi Düzeyi Alt Teması

Çalışmada kadınlar doğumhane kapısının arkasında kendilerini neyin beklediğini ve hangi müdahaleler/uygulamaların yapılacağını bilmedikleri için panik ve korkunun hâkim olduğunu ifade etmişlerdir.

*'Ne olacağı hakkında hiçbir fikrim yoktu. Ne sancı hakkında ne açılma hakkında ne çıkarma hakkında hiçbir bilgim olmadığı için ondan panikledim.'* (5. Katılımcı)

*'Değişik bir duygu ya böyle, bilmiyorsun ya değişik bir şey. Ne yapacağını bilmiyorsun ne yapacaklar sana hiç bilmiyorsun. Korku var tabii, korkuyordum.'* (10. Katılımcı)

### Fiziksel Ortam Alt Teması

Çalışmadan elde edilen verilerin analizi sonucunda doğumhane ortamının, ekipte yer alan kişilerin, diğer gebelerin kadınları etkilediği açığa çıkarılmıştır.

*'Ben daha önceden tecrübesiz olduğum için, sancının bu şekilde herkesin içinde verildiğini ve son ana kadar orda bekletildiğini bilmiyordum. Bu biraz beni olumsuz etkiledi. Mesela bana \*NST bağlanmış karşıda bayan doğurdu doğuracak ağrı çekiyor (üzgün ifade). Bu beni olumsuz etkiledi açıkçası.'* (1. Katılımcı)

\* Non Stress Test



Şekil 1. Çalışmada elde edilen tema ve alt temalar.

'(Travayda) karşımda yatıyorlardı. Dedim bu yatakta yatan herkes doğurdu çıktı, bir ben kaldım, beni de oraya alın.' (6. Katılımcı)

'Doğumhanenin atmosferi hem biraz korkunç hem de biraz iyi, biraz daha rahatlatıcı. Yani ikisi de.' (4. Katılımcı)

'Orada biraz endişeliydim. Yani tek olmak da endişelendiriyor, hiç kimsenin yanında olmaması, hiç kimseyi tanımamakta endişelendiriyor ama Allah'tan oradakilerde ilgiliydi yani.' (13. Katılımcı)

#### Ana Tema: Ambivalan Duygular

Doğumhane kapısından girdikten sonra kadınlarda ambivalan duygular hâkim olmuştur. Kadınların çoğu doğum sürecinde yaşadığı duygunun tarif edilemez ve çok değişik olduğunu ifade etmiştir. Kadınlar korku ve mutluluk duygusunun bir arada olduğu, sevinç ve paniğin birbirine karıştığı anlar yaşadıklarını belirtmişlerdir. Doğum sürecinde kadınlarda korku hâkim olmasının yanı sıra bir o kadar da teslimiyet duygusu vardır. Kadınların neredeyse hepsi yaşadıkları korkunun ve ambivalan duyguların bebeğinin doğum anı ile son bulduğunu, bebeğinin doğum anında net olarak mutluluk ve rahatlık hissettiğini belirtmiştir. Bunun yanı sıra bazı kadınlar doğum sürecinde tükendiğini, bir an önce doğurmak ve kurtulmak istediğini ifade etmiştir.

'Doğumhane kapısından girdiğim an korktum (üzücü bir ifade ile) yani... sonuçta... Yani korku sevinç endişe... Karman çorman bir şeyler. Sonuçta tek başına çıkmayacaksın artık oradan.' (2. Katılımcı)

'Zaten insan bebeği gördükten sonra çok mutlu oluyor, dikiş falan hiç insanın aklına bile gelmiyor (gülme). O bebeği gördükten sonra her şey gidiyor, unutuluyor yani.' (3. Katılımcı)

'(Doğumhane kapısından ilk girdiği an) heyecanlıydım ama bir o kadar da paniktim. Heyecanımın nedeni yani bir beş dakika içinde kucağıma alacaktım. Paniğin nedeni de o anki ne olabileceği hakkında hiçbir bilgim yoktu.' (5. Katılımcı)

'Tabi ki de çıktığı an rahatladım ben baya. Çok karıştı. Korku yoktu, herhâlde mutluluktan. Hani mutluluktan ağlamak gibi ama ağlamadım yani. Mutluluk veriyor, korku falan yoktu yani.' (7. Katılımcı)

'Başa geldi çekilecek. Suni sancı hoşuma gitmeyen bir şeydi ama başka da çare yoktu. Öyle yani (iç çekerek) teslimiyet vardı ama sonuçta korkuyu da bırakamıyordum elimden.' (8. Katılımcı)

'Sabah geldim saat dörtte bana şey dediler belki gece'12'ye kadar sürebilir dediler Zaten ben saat birde ikide tükenmişim. O yüzden ben dedim ben gideceğim artık, sezaryene alsınlar beni dayanamayacağım artık.' (2. Katılımcı)

'Allah günah yazmasın ama yani bir kurtulayım falan dediğim oldu yani gerçekten. Bitsin artık, alsınlar benden gibi.' (12. Katılımcı)

#### Ana Tema: Akılda Kalanlar

Her doğum hem annede hem de bebek de unutulmaz anlar bırakmaktadır. Bu çalışmaya katılan annelerin doğumda unutamadıkları, akılda kalan anları bulunmaktadır. Bu tema altında pozitif ve negatif anı olmak üzere iki alt tema belirlenmiştir.

#### Pozitif Anı Alt Teması

Çalışmaya katılan kadınların akıllarında kalan en olumlu anının, bebeklerine kavuştuğu an olduğu saptanmıştır. Kadınlar bebeklerini gördüğü, sesini duyduğu anı unutamadıklarını ve o anın çok özel olduğunu ifade etmişlerdir.

'Bebeğime kavuştuğum an, işte bebeğin kordonundan kesildiği an. Güzel bir duyguydu, tarif edilemez.' (1. Katılımcı)

'Bebeğin doğduğu an mükemmel (mutlu bir ifade). Ya böyle bir annelik duygusu ya bilmiyorum başka...Diyorum ya her şeyi unutuluyor insan.' (3. Katılımcı)

'Evladımın sesini duymam ve görmem. Kokusunu içine çekmem en güzel hatıraydı.' (4. Katılımcı)

#### Negatif Anı Alt Teması

Çalışmaya katılan kadınlar, akıllarında kalan en olumsuz anların doğum ağrısının, suni sancının ve epizyotomünün olduğunu belirtmişlerdir.

'En olumsuz şey dikişin atılması, bir de sancının olması.' (11. Katılımcı)

'En olumsuz sancılar, taktım ben bu sancılara (tebessüm)' (9. Katılımcı)

'Herkesin içerisinde o şekilde olmak, ağrı çekmek. Bir yandan kanaman geliyor bir yandan suyun geliyor. Zaten sen o ağrıyla kendinden geçiyorsun kötü. Ortamda o kadar ağrı çekmek olumsuz etkiledi beni.' (1. Katılımcı)

'En olumsuz şey, o iğnenin tenimden geçiş anı...Dikiş atılan an.' (4. Katılımcı)

### Ana Tema: Tercihler/Talepler

Çalışmaya katılan kadınların doğum süreci ile ilgili bazı taleplerinin olduğu ve doğum deneyimlerinin doğum şekli tercihini etkilediği açığa çıkmıştır. Bu doğrultuda bu ana tema altında sosyal destek ve gelecekteki doğum şekli olmak üzere iki tane alt tema belirlenmiştir.

### Sosyal Destek Alt Teması

Çalışmaya katılan kadınların çoğu doğum sürecinde kendilerine destek olması için yanlarında tanıdığı birisinin, özellikle eşinin veya annesinin olmasını istemektedir.

'Yanımda biri olmasını çok isterdim. Yani hep kapıdan biri girerken acaba annem mi giriyor diye baktım. Hani acaba çağırırlar mı bir destek olsun diye. Eşimin olmasını da isterdim. İkisinden birinin olmasını mutlaka isterdim. Doğum masasında da yanımda eşimin olmasını isterdim. Yani o an beni motive edebilecek tek insan oydu yani, en azından bir elimi tutabileceğim biri olabilirdi.' (13. Katılımcı)

'Eşimin yanında olmasını çok isterdim. Zaten o sancıları çekerken onu unutmadım. Zaten mesela doğuma gelmeden akşam dedim ki keşke sen de olsan. Belki evet acımı dindirmeyebilirdi ama en azından gördüğüm an destek olurdu. İsterdim yani.' (7. Katılımcı)

'Evet, eşimin yanımda olmasını çok isterdim. O kapıdaydı zaten, o bile yetti.' (9. Katılımcı)

### Gelecekteki Doğum Şekli Alt Teması

Çalışmada kadınların neredeyse hepsi, doğum sürecinde yaşadıkları ağrılara ve zorluklara rağmen ileride tekrar vajinal doğum yapmak istediklerini belirtmişlerdir.

'Olursa her şey normal ilerler ise normal yapmak isterim evet.' (8. Katılımcı)

'Bir sıkıntı çıkmazsa normal yapmak isterim. Normal daha sağlıklı. Yani sezaryenin ağrısı on, on beş iken, iki üç gün çekerim normal doğumu. En azından içim temizleniyor normal doğumda daha sağlıklı.' (7. Katılımcı)

'İkinci olursa tabi gene normal olmasını isterim. Dediğim gibi hani daha çabuk toparlanıyorsun, bebeğinle daha çok vakit geçiriyorsun bir de o geliş anını görmek çok güzel bir duygu.' (1. Katılımcı)

## TARTIŞMA

Kadın yaşamının en özel ve unutulmaz anı olan doğum, her kadın tarafından farklı deneyimlenmektedir. Doğum sürecinde doğum deneyimini etkileyen önemli bir faktör olan doğum endişesi veya korkusunu göz önüne alarak bakım vermek önemlidir. Her gebeye pozitif bir doğum deneyimi sunabilmek için, hemşireler doğum sürecinde kadınların duyguları, düşünceleri ve isteklerinin farkında olmalıdır. Yapılan çalışma sonucunda gebelerin çoğu başkasının doğum hikayelerine tanık olduğunu ve bu hikayelerin kendi doğum şeklini belirlemede bile etkili olduğunu ifade etmiştir. Suwanrath ve arkadaşları<sup>24</sup> tarafından 2021 yılında yapılan çalışmada katılımcılardan birinin 'Akrabam omuz distosisi ile mücadele etti. Aynı sorunu yaşamaktan korkuyorum, bu yüzden sezaryen ile doğum yapmak istiyorum' ifadesi çalışma bulgularını

desteklemektedir. Benzer şekilde literatürde doğum korkusunun doğum şekli tercihi üzerine etkili olduğunu belirten birçok çalışma bulunmaktadır.<sup>10,24-27</sup> Aktaş ve Erkek<sup>28</sup> tarafından annelerin vajinal doğum şeklini tercih etme nedenlerinin incelenmesi amacıyla yapılan çalışmada doğum tercihini %50 oranında eş ve doğum yapan yakın arkadaşları, %42,8 oranında birinci derece akrabaları etkilemiştir. Bu bulgu çalışma sonucunu destekler niteliktedir. Çalışmada gebelerin çoğu vajinal doğum hakkında daha sağlıklı, iyileşmenin daha hızlı olduğunu ve bebeği ile daha iyi ilgilenebildiğini duyduklarını ifade etmiştir. Benzer olarak literatürdeki çalışmalarda da<sup>28-33</sup> vajinal doğumun doğal, vücudu temizlediği ve yenilediği, günahları arındırdığı, postpartum evrede daha hızlı iyileştiği, anne-bebek için daha sağlıklı olduğu belirtilmiştir. Toplumdaki doğum hikâyelerinin gebelerin doğum ile ilgili algılarını, beklentilerini ve korkularını etkilediği düşünülerek toplumun vajinal doğuma yönelik pozitif algısının artırılması gerekmektedir. Bu ve benzeri çalışma sonuçlarının da bu amaçla ve dolaylı olarak ulusal sezaryen oranlarını azaltmada katkı sağlayacağı düşünülmektedir.

Çalışmaya katılan gebelerin çoğu doğumu zor ve uzun olarak tanımlarken literatürde doğumu kolay ve olumlu olarak tanımlayan kadınlar da bulunmaktadır.<sup>34,35</sup> Çalışmada gebelerin neredeyse tamamı sosyal desteğe ihtiyaç duyduğunu belirtmiş ve bu ihtiyaç tüm doğum sürecinde kendini göstermiştir. Benzer şekilde literatür<sup>15,36-38</sup> ve uluslararası kuruluşlar<sup>39</sup> da gebelerin doğum sürecinde kendilerine destek olacak birine ihtiyaç duyduğunu ve doğumda sosyal destek verilmesi gerektiğini belirtmektedir. Ülkemizde anne dostu hastane sayılarının artırılması gebelerin beklentilerini karşılamada etkili olacaktır.

Çalışmada kadınların doğum süreci ile ilgili olarak yaşadığı bilinmezlik duygusunun korku yaşamalarına neden olduğu belirlenmiştir. Literatürde gebelerin doğum süreci hakkında bilgi düzeylerinin düşük olduğu ve bu nedenle doğum ile ilgili kaygılarının fazla olduğunu bildiren çalışmalar bulunmaktadır.<sup>10,40-42</sup> Tok ve Sakallıoğlu<sup>43</sup> tarafından yapılan çalışmada da gebelerin endişe nedenleri arasında doğumu beklerken neler yaşayacağını bilmeme durumunun bulunması çalışma bulgularını destekler niteliktedir. Gebelerdeki doğum süreci ile ilgili bilinmezlik durumunu ve buna bağlı doğum endişesini azaltmak için gebelerin doğuma hazırlık sınıflarına katılımı teşvik edilmelidir.

Her gebe, doğum sürecinin ve doğum anının hayalini kurarak birtakım beklentilere sahip olmaktadır. Yapılan çalışmada fiziksel ortamın gebelerin doğum deneyimine etki ettiği sonucuna varılmış olup, gebelerin doğumhane ortamı ile ilgili endişelerinin ve beklentilerinin olduğu belirlenmiştir. Çalışma bulguları ile benzer olarak, Tok ve Sakallıoğlu<sup>43</sup> tarafından yapılan çalışmada doğumhane ortamını gebelerin %49,9'u korkutucu, %21,8'i, kalabalık ve %7'si gürültülü olarak tanımlanmıştır. Kanıtlar, doğum ortamının pozitif doğum deneyimi için önemli olduğunu belirtmektedir. Geleneksel doğumhane ortamları, gebeyi daha pasif ve sabırlı olmaya teşvik eden bir düzendedir.<sup>35,44,45</sup> Pozitif bir doğum deneyimi için doğumhane ortamını göz ardı etmemek önem arz etmektedir.

Doğum sürecinde kadınlar birçok duyguyu beraber yaşamakta ve içinde buldukları durumu tarifsiz olarak tanımlamaktadır. Benzer şekilde, Vural ve Körpe tarafından<sup>46</sup> 2021 yılında yapılan çalışmada da gebelerin korku, heyecan, mutluluk, tedirginlik duygularını yaşadığı belirtilmiştir. Aynı çalışmada bir kadının 'Anne olmak bütün korkuları yok ediyor, bebeğim için her şeye

değer' ifadesi, kadınların doğumda teslimiyet duygusu yaşadığını yansıtmaktadır ve çalışmanın bulgularını destekler niteliktedir.<sup>46</sup> Yapılan bir sistematik derlemede de gebelerin çoğunun doğumun zorluğu, ağrısı ve bilinmezliği nedeniyle korku yaşadıkları, tüm bunlara rağmen bu zorlukları kendileri ve bebekleri için olumlu ve doğum sürecinin bir parçası olarak kabul ettikleri belirtilmiştir.<sup>47</sup>

Doğum eyleminin mucizevi anı bebeğin doğum anıdır. Literatür ile uyumlu olarak bu çalışmada da gebelerin en unutamayacağı olumlu an, bebeğin doğum anı olmuştur. Kadınlar bu anı tarif edilemez olarak tanımlamaktadır. Benzer şekilde Hosseini-Tabaghdehi ve ark.<sup>35</sup> tarafından yapılan çalışmada bir kadın doğum anını 'Farklı, tarif etmesi zor. Bana her şey verilse bile o mutlu heyecanlı anı değişmezdim' diyerek tanımlamaktadır. Bu doğrultuda kadınlar için önemli ve unutulmaz olan doğum anında anne ile bebeğin buluşmasının geciktirilmemesi, rutin yenidoğan bakımların anne kucağında yapılması gibi müdahaleler bu mucizevi anı daha da özel ve unutulmaz kılacaktır.

Çalışmaya katılan gebelerin doğum sürecinde unutamadıkları en olumsuz anlar doğum ağrısı, suni sancı ve epizyotomi olmuştur. Aktaş ve Aydın<sup>28</sup> tarafından kadınların doğum deneyimlerinin analizini yaptıkları nitel bir çalışmada karşılaşılan zorluklar teması altında suni sancı ve uygulanan müdahaleler ele alınmıştır. Aynı çalışmada kadınlar suni sancı verildikten sonra dayanılmaz hale gelen ve giderek sıklaşan doğum ağrıları ile baş etmede zorlandıklarını ifade etmişlerdir. Suni sancıyı 'Cehennem ateşi gibi çok acı verici' olarak tanımlamışlardır. Ayrıca çalışma ile benzer şekilde epizyotomi uygulaması kadınlarda stres, korku ve ağrıya neden olmuş ve kadınlar bu durumu 'Seni kesiyorlar. Beni öldürüyorlar sandım...' ifadesi ile tanımlamışlardır.<sup>28</sup> Literatürde indüksiyonlu doğum deneyimlerinin sistematik incelemesinde doğumda indüksiyon uygulanmasının kadınlar için zorlu bir deneyim olduğu belirtilmiştir.<sup>30</sup> Bu doğrultuda kadınlara indüksiyon uygulaması ile ilgili doğru zamanda net bilgiler verilmeli ve kadınların ortak karar alma süreçlerinde yer almaları sağlanarak pozitif doğum deneyimine katkı sağlanmalıdır.

Gebelerin doğum deneyimleri analiz edildiğinde, yanlarında destek olacak birilerinin olmasının daha iyi baş edebilmelerine ve olumlu doğum deneyimi yaşamalarına katkı sağlayacağı sonucu çıkarılmıştır. Literatürdeki birçok çalışmada kadınlar doğum sırasında eşlerinin ve diğer refakatçilerinin varlığının doğumla daha iyi başa çıkmalarına yardımcı olduğu belirtilmiş ve birçok çalışma pozitif doğum deneyiminde eş desteğinin önemini vurgulamıştır.<sup>35,37,38,48,49</sup> Dahlberg ve Aune<sup>50</sup> tarafından yapılan çalışmada bir kadının 'Doğum sırasında yanımda olan kişiyi tanıdığım için kendime güvenim geldi. Bana yakın ve destekleyiciydi ve bu benim doğum deneyimimi çok olumlu kıldı.' ifadesi çalışma bulgularını destekler niteliktedir.

Kadınların önceki doğum deneyimi, doğum şekli tercihinin etkileyen önemli bir faktördür. Bu çalışmada da bu doğum deneyiminden yola çıkarak ve istedikleri takdirde ilerideki doğum şekli tercihi sorulduğunda tüm ağrı ve acılara rağmen gebelerin çoğu tekrar vajinal doğumu tercih etmiştir. Literatürde de doğum deneyiminin doğum şekli tercihinin etkilediğini belirten benzer çalışmaların<sup>27,28,51</sup> olması bulguyu destekler niteliktedir. Hosseini-Tabaghdehi ve arkadaşları<sup>35</sup> 2020 yılında tarafından yapılan doğum deneyimlerinin incelendiği nitel bir çalışmada kadının 'Doğum ağrısı kadar tatlı başka bir ağrı yok, doğum yapmak istersem tekrar vajinal doğum seçerim' ifadesi bu çalışmanın bulguları ile örtüşmektedir. Bu doğrultuda her gebeye pozitif doğum deneyimi sağlamak,

toplumdaki pozitif doğum hikâyelerini arttırırken doğum korkusunu ve ulusal sezaryen oranlarını azaltacaktır.

#### Araştırmanın Sınırlılıkları

Nitel araştırma yönteminin doğası gereği elde edilen veriler, katılımcılara özeldir. Veriler sadece İzmir'de araştırmanın yapıldığı hastanede tedavi olan 13 katılımcının duygu ve düşüncelerini içermektedir. Bu nedenle araştırma sonuçlarının tüm kadınlara genellenemez oluşu araştırmanın sınırlılığı içerisinde yer almaktadır.

Çalışmada doğum korkusu yüksek olan gebelerin doğum deneyimleri açığa çıkarılmış ve bu sayede doğum sürecinin hangi alanlarında nasıl deneyimler yaşadıkları belirlenmiştir. Doğum süreci nasıl ilerlese ilerlesin, sağlık profesyonelleri gebelerin güvenini, beklentilerini, mahremiyetini, ortak karar verme sürecini ve baş etme sürecini destekleyen bakım sağlamalıdır. Gebelerin hepsi doğum sürecinin zor ve ağırlı olduğunu söylemesine rağmen yaşamın ilerleyen döneminde ağrıdan ziyade doğum sırasında aldığı bakımın kalitesini hatırlar. Bu nedenle gebelere pozitif bir doğum deneyimi sunabilmek için hemşireler bakıma sadece fizyolojik boyutu değil psikolojik, sosyal ve fiziksel boyutu da dâhil etmelidirler.

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**Hasta Onamı:** Çalışmada sözlü ve yazılı onay doğum yapan kadınların kendisinden alınmıştır.

**Hakem Değerlendirmesi:** Dış bağımsız.

**Yazar Katkıları:** Fikir – S.Ç.A.; Tasarım – S.Ç.A., G.I., N.E.C.; Denetim – N.E.C.; Kaynaklar – S.Ç.A., G.I.; Veri Toplama ve/veya İşleme – S.Ç.A.; Analiz ve/veya Yorum – S.Ç.A., G.I., N.E.C.; Literatür Taraması – S.Ç.A., G.I.; Yazılı Yazan – S.Ç.A., G.I., N.E.C.; Eleştirel İnceleme – N.E.C.

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**Author Contributions:** Concept – S.Ç.A.; Design – S.Ç.A., G.I., N.E.C.; Supervision – N.E.C.; Resources – S.Ç.A., G.I.; Data Collection and/or Processing – S.Ç.A.; Analysis and/or Interpretation – S.Ç.A., G.I., N.E.C.; Literature Search – S.Ç.A., G.I.; Writing Manuscript – S.Ç.A., G.I., N.E.C.; Critical Review – N.E.C.

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# Investigation of Well-Being Levels of Individuals Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes in Terms of Sociodemographic Characteristics and Life Experiences with the Disease

Tip 2 Diyabetli Bireylerin Sosyodemografik Özellikleri ve Hastalıkla Yaşam Deneyimleri Açısından İyi Oluş Düzeylerinin İncelenmesi

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study was conducted to examine the sociodemographic characteristics of people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and the level of well-being in terms of life experiences with the disease.

**Methods:** This descriptive type of research was conducted with 254 people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and admitted to Internal Medicine and Endocrinology Clinics of a hospital. "Sociodemographic characteristics form," "life experiences with the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes form," and the "PERMA Sscale" were used to collect the data. The data of the study were statistically analyzed using the SPSS 25.0 package program and descriptive statistics, independent t test, ANOVA, pearson correlation analysis and Posthoc Tukey test.

**Results:** It was determined that the individuals participating in the study lived with type 2 diabetes for an average of  $8.29 \pm 6.72$  years. Individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in the study got the highest score from the PERMA Scale sub-dimensions of success ( $8.49 \pm 0.99$ ) and the lowest score from the sub-dimensions of negative emotions ( $3.17 \pm 1.60$ ). It has been determined that there is a significant difference in the PERMA scale sub-dimension scores in terms of place of residence, education level, working status, treatment type, having other health problems related to the disease, hospitalization history, adaptability to the recommended diet, activity, and informal support ( $P < .05$ ).

**Conclusion:** It was concluded that individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes had a high level of well-being, which varies depending on the place of residence, education level, employment status, types of treatment, other health problems related to the disease, hospitalization history, adaptation to the recommended diet, adaptation to the recommended activities, and to what extent informal support is received.

**Keywords:** Type 2 diabetes, sociodemographic characteristics, illness experiences, well-being, nursing

## ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu araştırma tip 2 diyabetli bireylerin sosyodemografik özellikleri ve hastalıkla yaşam deneyimleri açısından iyi oluş düzeylerinin incelenmesi amacıyla yapılmıştır.

**Yöntemler:** Bu tanımlayıcı araştırma bir hastanenin dahiliye ve endokrinoloji polikliniklerine başvuran tip 2 diyabetli 254 bireyle yürütülmüştür. Verilerin toplanmasında "Sosyodemografik Özellikler Formu," "Tip 2 Diyabet Tanısıyla Yaşam Deneyimleri Formu" ve "PERMA Ölçeği" kullanılmıştır. Araştırmanın verileri SPSS 25.0 paket programı ile tanımlayıcı istatistikler, independent t testi, ANOVA, pearson korelasyon analizi ve Posthoc Tukey testi kullanılarak istatistiksel olarak analiz edilmiştir.

**Bulgular:** Araştırmaya katılan bireylerin ortalama  $8,29 \pm 6,72$  yıldır tip 2 diyabet ile yaşadıkları belirlenmiştir. Çalışmadaki tip 2 diyabet tanısı alan bireyler PERMA Ölçeği alt boyutları arasında en yüksek puanı başarı ( $8,49 \pm 0,99$ ), en düşük puanı ise olumsuz duygular ( $3,17 \pm 1,60$ ) alt boyutlarından almışlardır. Bireylerin yaşadığı yer, eğitim durumu, çalışma durumu, tedavi şekli, hastalığa bağlı başka sağlık sorunu olma durumu, hastaneye yatış öyküsü, önerilen diyete, aktiviteye uyum sağlayabilme durumu ve informal destek alma durumu açısından PERMA Ölçeği alt boyut puanlarında anlamlı bir fark olduğu saptanmıştır ( $P < ,05$ ).

**Sonuç:** Tip 2 diyabetli bireylerin iyi oluş düzeylerinin yüksek seviyede olduğu, yaşanan yer, eğitim düzeyi, çalışma durumu, tedavi şekilleri, hastalığa bağlı başka sağlık sorunu olma durumu, hastaneye yatış öyküleri, önerilen diyete uyum sağlayabilme, önerilen aktivitelere uyum sağlayabilme ve informal destek alma durumları açısından bireylerin iyi oluş düzeylerinin değiştiği sonucuna ulaşılmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Deneyim, doğum korkusu, fenomenolojik, hemşirelik

## INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus is a lifelong disease that occurs when the pancreas in the body does not make enough hormone insulin or the hormone insulin it makes fails to be used effectively. Type 2 diabetes, an organic disease, also has psychosocial and psychiatric aspects.<sup>1</sup> Individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes can have a high level of non-compliance with a drug, low self-efficacy, and inadequate exercise and dietary behavior.<sup>12</sup> Emotional reactions often cause problems in individuals living with diabetes,<sup>3</sup> while mental disorders such as depression, generalized anxiety disorder, and eating disorder occur more frequently than in the general population.<sup>4</sup> All of these are the reactions of the individual to the anxiety and stress that occur due to both the disease itself and the many lifestyle changes that come with this disease.<sup>5</sup> This case requires the individual to feel good, to function effectively, and to struggle with painful experiences and negative effects to live a good life with diabetes<sup>6</sup> as well as shows the importance of the level of well-being that enables him/her to realize themselves and lead a meaningful life when faced with difficulties.

Although the concept of well-being has attracted the attention of thinkers for years, it was not until recently that its systematic measurement and study aroused interest. These studies are meant to define 3 aspects of well-being: positive emotion, negative emotion, and life satisfaction. Positive emotion shows the individuals pleasant emotions such as joy, excitement, trust, hope, interest, strength, pride, enthusiasm, or contentment, whereas, negative emotion shows the tendency to experience unpleasant emotions such as stress, distress, anger, hatred, guilt, anxiety, and sadness. Life satisfaction points to contentedness with life in general and constitutes the cognitive component of well-being. It reflects the evaluations of the individual's satisfaction in various social and life areas.<sup>7</sup> Where all 3 aspects are taken together, the more people evaluate their lives with positive emotions and thoughts, the higher their well-being levels become. The ratio of positive evaluations to negative evaluations of people in terms of well-being evaluations is crucial. Although one's happiness level is related to the frequency of experiencing positive emotions rather than negative emotions, the balance between positive and negative emotions also contributes to thoughts of life satisfaction. Considering all these elements of the concept of well-being, the individual with a high level of well-being is an individual who rarely feels sad and is generally happy and cheerful in life. From a different point of view, individuals' well-being levels increase when they feel negative emotions at a relatively low level and positive emotions intensely and frequently and when activities in their lives are somewhere close to help the individual be satisfied.<sup>8,9</sup>

Positive emotions of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes tend to be influenced by variables such as their level of compliance with treatment, diet and physical activity program, social support from the family and social environment, and appropriate methods they use to cope with the disease.<sup>10</sup> On the other hand, variables such as loneliness, non-compliance with treatment and lifestyle changes related to the disease, progression of the disease, and the emergence of complications may predispose individuals to develop negative emotions.<sup>11</sup> Patients with type 2 diabetes are expected to have increased life satisfaction as well as an increased level of well-being both psychologically and cognitively if they check their doctor, adapt to diet, and exercise programs regularly, receive positive support from their families and social circles, see diabetes not as a disease but as a lifestyle, and live accordingly.<sup>12</sup> It is known that besides the variables related to the disease, sociodemographic variables also cause differences in the well-being of individuals. A review of the literature makes it clear that there are studies touching upon the effects of demographic variables such as age, gender, marital status, and employment status on well-being.<sup>13,14</sup>

Examining the factors affecting the well-being levels of individuals with type 2 diabetes is important in terms of planning interventions for patients. This study was conducted to examine the sociodemographic characteristics and well-being levels of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in terms of their life experiences with the disease.

Research questions are as follows:

- What are the sociodemographic characteristics of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes?
- What are the characteristics of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes regarding their life experiences with the disease?
- What are the well-being levels of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes?
- Is there a difference in the level of well-being of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes according to their sociodemographic characteristics?
- Is there a difference in the level of well-being of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes according to the characteristics of their life experiences with the disease?

## METHODS

### Study Design

This research was conducted in descriptive type.

### Study Population

The population of this study consists of patients who applied to the internal medicine and endocrinology polyclinics of a hospital in the Black Sea Region of Turkey with the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. The minimum sample size to be included in the study was calculated with the Open Epi 3.01 program. While determining the sample of the study, the number of patients (1000 people) diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and admitted to the polyclinics in the last 1 year was taken as a basis. With the relevant number taken as a criterion as well as a power analysis, the sample size was determined as at least 214 people, with a 5% margin of error, a 90% CI, and the ability to represent the population by 80%. In this regard, the study was conducted with 253 people admitted to polyclinics between October 2019 and January 2020 and appropriate for the inclusion criteria. Voluntary individuals older than 18 years of age, living with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes for at least 6 months, and without a severe neurological or mental disorder or communication disabilities were included in the study. Individuals younger than 18 years of age, living with the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes for less than 6 months, diagnosed with a serious neurological or mental illness, having a communication disability, and who did not volunteer to participate in the study were excluded from the study. The individuals who met the criteria for inclusion in the study between the specified dates formed the sample group.

### Research Variables

**The independent variables:** Sociodemographic characteristics and life experiences of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes constitute the independent variables.

**The dependent variables:** Well-being levels of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes constitute the dependent variables.

### Instruments

The data in the study were collected using the “sociodemographic characteristics form,” “life experiences with the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes form,” and “PERMA scale (P: positive and negative emotions, E: engagement, R: relationships, M: meaning, A: accomplishment).”

**Sociodemographic characteristics form:** This form was created by the researcher by reviewing the literature.<sup>12-17</sup> The form contains 6 questions about sociodemographic information (age, gender, marital status, place of residence, educational status, and employment status).

**Life experiences with the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes form:** This form was created by the researcher by reviewing the literature.<sup>12-17</sup> The form contains 8 questions about the life experiences of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes (duration of illness, type of treatment, other health problems related to the disease, frequency of going to the hospitals, hospitalization history, adaptation to the recommended diet, adaptation to the recommended activities, and to what extent informal support is received during the life experience with type 2 diabetes).

**PERMA Scale:** The Turkish validity and reliability studies of this scale, which was developed by Butler and Kern<sup>18</sup> to evaluate the well-being levels of individuals, were conducted by Demirci et al.<sup>19</sup> The scale consists of 15 items and 8 filler items and 5 domains: “positive emotions,” “engagement,” “positive relationships,” “meaning,” and “accomplishment.” Three items make up each domain. In the evaluation of the scale, the average scores of the

items of each domain are taken. However, none of them alone explains the level of well-being as each domain contributes to the level of well-being. In addition, apart from the domains of well-being, Butler and Kern<sup>18</sup> added 6 out of 8 filler items to the scale as “health” and “negative emotions” as 2 separate domains. The Cronbach’s alpha reliability coefficient of the scale is 0.91. In this study, the reliability of the PERMA scale was found to be 0.934, showing that the scale is quite reliable.

### Data Collection

The data collection process was implemented through cooperation with specialty doctors and secretaries working in the polyclinics where the research was conducted. The data collection process was carried out by the researcher. The researcher collected the data by interviewing the individuals who met the criteria for inclusion in the study using face-to-face interview technique. The implementation of the data collection form took approximately 15-25 minutes.

### Statistical Analysis

The analysis of the data obtained from the research was carried out using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) 25.0 package program. The suitability of the data to the normal distribution was evaluated with the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test, and parametric tests were used in this study. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, and mean); independent samples *t*-test, and analysis of variance were used to evaluate differences in well-being levels according to these characteristics and Pearson correlation analysis was used to evaluate the relationship between age and life expectancy with type 2 diabetes and well-being. In addition, the post-hoc Tukey HSD test was used to further evaluate the differences in well-being levels according to the characteristics of the participants.

### Ethical Aspect of Research

Before starting the research, permission was obtained from the Ondokuz Mayıs University Clinical Research Ethics Committee, numbered OMÜ KAEK 2019/544. Institutional permission of the study was obtained from the Provincial Health Directorate with the decision numbered 93771576-302.08.01-E.23636. All individuals with Type 2 Diabetes who were included in the study before starting the study were informed about the study and both verbal and written consents were obtained.

## RESULTS

Findings obtained from individuals with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes included in the study are given in this section.

The average age of individuals with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes included in the study was  $59.38 \pm 12.33$  (19-90). About 65.7% of the individuals were women, 96.6% were married, 55.1% lived in the city, and 65.4% had primary school level of education. In addition, 68.9% of the participants were unemployed (Table 1).

It is shown that the individuals participating in the study have been living with type 2 diabetes for an average of  $8.29 \pm 6.72$  years. As indicated in Table 3, 65.7% of the individuals received oral antidiabetic treatment, 52.8% did not experience other health problems related to the disease, 54.7% went to the controls sporadically and in case of need 73.6% had no hospitalization history, 42.1% rarely adapted to the recommended diet, 48.4% rarely adapted to the recommended activities, 96.1% received informal support in life experience with the disease,

**Table 1. Distribution of the Participants According to Sociodemographic Characteristics (n = 254)**

Sociodemographic Characteristics		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Female	167	65.7
	Male	87	34.3
Marital status	Married	246	96.6
	Single	8	3.1
Place of residence	City	140	55.1
	District	108	42.5
	Village	6	2.4
Educational status	Primary school	166	65.4
	Secondary school	58	22.8
	High school	26	10.2
	University	4	1.6
Employment status	Employed	79	31.1
	Unemployed	175	68.9
Age		X ± SD	Minimum–maximum
		59.38 ± 12.33	19-90

and 94.1% received psychosocial support from nurses while experiencing the disease (Table 2).

The PERMA scale sub-dimension mean scores of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in the study were found as follows: accomplishment  $8.49 \pm 0.99$ ; relationships  $8.42 \pm 0.87$ ; engagement  $8.40 \pm 0.80$ ; positive emotions  $8.33 \pm 0.93$ ; meaning  $8.10 \pm 1.01$ ; health  $7.56 \pm 1.56$ ; and negative emotions  $3.17 \pm 1.60$ , from high to low, respectively (Table 3).

According to the sociodemographic characteristics of the individuals with type 2 diabetes in the study, the domain mean scores of the PERMA scale were analyzed (Table 4). In terms of the place of residence, it was determined that the individuals living in the city got higher scores in the engagement ( $P = .01$ ) and health ( $P < .001$ ) domains than those living in the district.. In addition, it was found that those living in villages had higher scores of accomplishment ( $P = .04$ ) and negative emotion ( $P = .003$ ) domains than those living in the city. Among the individuals participating in the study, the mean scores of the negative emotions domain were higher in those with a university degree than others, while the mean scores of the health domain of the secondary school graduates were significantly higher than the primary school graduates ( $P < .001$ ). Employed ones had higher scores of positive emotions ( $P = .003$ ), meaning ( $P = .019$ ), accomplishment ( $P = .005$ ), and health ( $P < .001$ ) domains among the individuals with type 2 diabetes in the study, while they had lower scores in the negative emotion ( $P < .001$ ) domain. A significant negative relationship was found between the age of the participants and the positive emotions ( $P = .007$ ), engagement ( $P < .001$ ), relationships ( $P = .01$ ), meaning ( $P < .001$ ), accomplishment ( $P < .001$ ), and health ( $P < .001$ ) domain mean scores of the PERMA scale; however, a significant positive relationship was found in terms of negative emotion ( $P = .002$ ) domain mean scores. According to the other variables in Table 4, no statistically significant difference was found between the mean scores of the PERMA scale domains ( $P > .05$ ).

**Table 2. Distribution of the Life Experiences of the Participants Related to the Diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes (n = 254)**

Life Experiences Related to Type 2 Diabetes Diagnosis		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Type of treatment	Oral antidiabetic	167	65.7
	Insulin+oral antidiabetic	87	34.3
Other disease-related health problems	Yes	120	47.2
	No	134	52.8
Frequency of going to the hospitals	Once a week	3	1.2
	Once a month	12	4.7
	Once a year	100	39.4
	Sporadic (in case of need)	139	54.7
Hospitalization history	Yes	67	26.4
	No	187	73.6
Adaptation to the recommended diet	Always	7	2.8
	Often	51	20.1
	Sometimes	89	35.0
	Rarely	107	42.1
Adaptation to the recommended activities	Always	2	0.8
	Often	33	13.0
	Sometimes	96	37.8
	Rarely	123	48.4
To what extent informal support is received during the life experience with type 2 diabetes	Yes	244	96.1
	No	10	3.9

According to the life experiences of the participants related to the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, the mean scores of the PERMA scale domains are given in Table 5. Considering the PERMA scale domain scores according to the treatment types of the individuals, it was found that the negative emotion ( $P < .001$ ) domain scores were higher and the health ( $P < .001$ ) domain scores were lower in those subjected to insulin+oral antidiabetic treatment together. The positive emotions ( $P = .04$ ), relationships ( $P = .001$ ), meaning ( $P = .007$ ), and health ( $P < .001$ ) domain scores of the participants with other health problems related to the disease were lower, while negative emotion ( $P < .001$ ) domain scores were found to be higher. After the frequency of individuals going to the hospitals for health checks

**Table 3. PERMA Scale Domain Mean Scores of Patients Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes**

PERMA Scale Sub-Dimensions	X ± SD
Positive emotions	8.33 ± 0.93
Engagement	8.40 ± 0.80
Relationships	8.42 ± 0.87
Meaning	8.10 ± 1.01
Accomplishment	8.49 ± 0.99
Negative emotions	3.17 ± 1.60
Health	7.56 ± 1.56

Table 4. PERMA Scale Sub-Dimensions Mean Scores According to the Sociodemographic Characteristics of Individuals

		PERMA Scale Sub-Dimensions													
Sociodemographic Characteristics		Positive Emotions		Engagement		Relationships		Meaning		Accomplishment		Negative Emotions		Health	
		X $\pm$ SD		X $\pm$ SD		X $\pm$ SD		X $\pm$ SD		X $\pm$ SD		X $\pm$ SD		X $\pm$ SD	
<b>Gender</b>	Female	8.36 $\pm$ 0.96		8.44 $\pm$ 0.83		8.44 $\pm$ 0.91		8.07 $\pm$ 1.09		8.42 $\pm$ 1.08		3.15 $\pm$ 1.52		7.55 $\pm$ 1.60	
	Male	8.27 $\pm$ 0.87		8.34 $\pm$ 0.74		8.38 $\pm$ 0.79		8.16 $\pm$ 0.85		8.62 $\pm$ 0.79		3.21 $\pm$ 1.59		7.56 $\pm$ 1.49	
Test and P-value		t=0.72 P=.47		t=0.92 P=.35		t=0.53 P=.59		t=-0.67 P=.50		t=-1.57 P=.11		t=-0.28 P=.77		t=-0.04 P=.96	
Marital status	Married	8.34 $\pm$ 0.92		8.41 $\pm$ 0.80		8.44 $\pm$ 0.84		8.12 $\pm$ 0.92		8.49 $\pm$ 1.00		3.16 $\pm$ 1.57		7.55 $\pm$ 1.56	
	Single	8.00 $\pm$ 1.30		8.33 $\pm$ 0.85		7.75 $\pm$ 1.54		7.54 $\pm$ 2.67		8.41 $\pm$ 0.79		3.54 $\pm$ 2.54		7.62 $\pm$ 1.82	
Test and P-value		t=1.02 P=.30		t=0.27 P=.78		t=2.23 P=.02		t=1.60 P=.11		t=0.21 P=.82		t=-0.65 P=.51		t=-0.11 P=0.90	
Place of residence	City	8.43 $\pm$ 0.87		8.52 $\pm$ 0.72		8.47 $\pm$ 0.78		8.21 $\pm$ 0.77		8.57 $\pm$ 0.81a		2.90 $\pm$ 1.59a		7.92 $\pm$ 1.28a	
	District	8.20 $\pm$ 0.96		8.24 $\pm$ 0.87		8.34 $\pm$ 0.88		7.96 $\pm$ 1.05		8.34 $\pm$ 1.17b		3.44 $\pm$ 1.44b		7.12 $\pm$ 1.74b	
	Village	8.33 $\pm$ 1.65		8.77 $\pm$ 2.21		8.77 $\pm$ 2.21		7.94 $\pm$ 3.32		9.22 $\pm$ 0.75c		4.51 $\pm$ 3.13c		6.72 $\pm$ 2.28c	
Test and P-value		F=1.79 P=.16		F=4.54 P=.01 a>b		F=1.16 P=.31		F=1.93 P=.14		F=3.23 P=.04 c>a		F=6.03 P=.003 c>a		F=9.38 P=.000 a>b	
Educational status	Primary school	8.31 $\pm$ 1.00		8.37 $\pm$ 0.88		8.43 $\pm$ 0.92		7.98 $\pm$ 1.14		8.38 $\pm$ 1.12		3.31 $\pm$ 1.65a		7.28 $\pm$ 1.66a	
	Secondary school	8.51 $\pm$ 0.72		8.57 $\pm$ 0.48		8.50 $\pm$ 0.71		8.32 $\pm$ 0.57		8.70 $\pm$ 0.62		2.60 $\pm$ 1.14b		8.35 $\pm$ 0.96b	
	High school	8.16 $\pm$ 0.86		8.33 $\pm$ 0.82		8.32 $\pm$ 0.95		8.33 $\pm$ 0.78		8.73 $\pm$ 0.64		3.28 $\pm$ 1.44c		7.48 $\pm$ 1.58c	
	University	7.58 $\pm$ 0.50		7.91 $\pm$ 0.73		7.75 $\pm$ 0.31		8.25 $\pm$ 1.13		8.33 $\pm$ 0.72		6.25 $\pm$ 1.52d		7.83 $\pm$ 0.83d	
Test and P-value		F=1.86 P=.136		F=1.50 P=.215		F=1.06 P=.366		F=2.12 P=.098		F=2.04 P=.109		F=9.55 P=.000 d>a,b,c		F=7.109 P=.000b>a	
Employment status	Employed	8.59 $\pm$ 0.75		8.50 $\pm$ 0.74		8.53 $\pm$ 0.64		8.32 $\pm$ 0.70		8.75 $\pm$ 0.66		2.64 $\pm$ 1.41		8.16 $\pm$ 1.07	
	Unemployed	8.21 $\pm$ 0.98		8.36 $\pm$ 0.82		8.37 $\pm$ 0.96		8.00 $\pm$ 1.11		8.37 $\pm$ 1.09		3.41 $\pm$ 1.64		7.28 $\pm$ 1.67	
Test and P-value		t=2.97 P=.003		t=1.23 P=.21		t=1.32 P=.188		t=2.36 P=.019		t=2.82 P=.005		t=-3.57 P=.000		t=4.29 P=.000	
Age (59.38 $\pm$ 12.33)		r=-0.16 P=.007		r=-0.23 P=.000		r=-0.16 P=.01		r=-0.27 P=.000		r=-0.30 P=.000		r=0.194 P=.002		r=-0.338 P=.000	

Tukey HSD test results are shown using a, b, c, d values.

**Table 5. The Mean Scores of the Sub-Dimensions of the PERMA Scale in Terms of Their Experience with the Disease of the Participants with Type 2 Diabetes**

	PERMA Scale Domains						
	Positive Emotions	Engagement	Relationships	Meaning	Accomplishment	Negative Emotions	Health
Life Experiences	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD
Type of treatment							
Oral antidiabetic	8.39 ± 0.91	8.42 ± 0.81	8.46 ± 0.82	8.17 ± 0.84	8.51 ± 0.98	2.98 ± 1.48	7.90 ± 1.34
Insulin+oral antidiabetic	8.21 ± 0.97	8.38 ± 0.77	8.36 ± 0.96	7.98 ± 1.27	8.45 ± 1.01	3.54 ± 1.76	6.89 ± 1.75
Test and P-value	t=1.43 P=.15	t=0.37 P=.708	t=0.83 P=.404	t=1.38 P=.167	t=0.46 P=.645	t=0.01 P=.000	t=5.10 P=.000
Other disease-related health problems							
Yes	8.20 ± 1.02	8.34 ± 0.81	8.24 ± 1.01	7.92 ± 1.16	8.41 ± 1.12	3.66 ± 1.73	6.85 ± 1.71
No	8.44 ± 0.83	8.46 ± 0.79	8.59 ± 0.69	8.27 ± 0.82	8.55 ± 0.86	2.73 ± 1.35	8.19 ± 1.09
Test and P-value	t=-2.04 P=.04	t=-1.16 P=.24	t=-3.21 P=.001	t=-2.73 P=.007	t=-1.10 P=.27	t=4.77 P=.000	t=-7.51 P=.000
Frequency of going to the hospitals							
Once a week	7.77 ± 0.76	8.11 ± 0.50	8.66 ± 0.33	8.00 ± 0.57	8.77 ± 0.69	3.88 ± 1.26	6.00 ± 2.51a
Once a month	8.61 ± 0.76	8.66 ± 0.61	8.75 ± 0.76	8.58 ± 0.71	8.69 ± 0.67	2.88 ± 1.55	8.52 ± 0.77b
Once a year	8.38 ± 0.87	8.43 ± 0.89	8.50 ± 0.81	8.08 ± 0.90	8.57 ± 0.93	3.06 ± 1.53	7.75 ± 1.33c
Sporadic (in case of need)	8.29 ± 0.99	8.37 ± 0.75	8.34 ± 0.92	8.08 ± 1.11	8.41 ± 1.06	3.26 ± 1.67	7.36 ± 1.69d
Test and P-value	F=0.88 P=.45	F=0.67 P=.57	F=1.32 P=.26	F=0.92 P=.42	F=0.74 P=.52	F=0.60 P=.61	F=3.85 P=.01 b>a
Hospitalization history							
Yes	8.17 ± 10.07	8.23 ± 0.94	8.33 ± 0.97	7.93 ± 1.32	8.19 ± 1.38	3.32 ± 1.74	7.11 ± 1.86
No	8.39 ± 0.87	8.47 ± 0.73	8.46 ± 0.83	8.16 ± 0.87	8.59 ± 0.79	3.11 ± 1.56	7.72 ± 1.41
Test and P-value	t=-1.59 P=.11	t=-2.09 P=.03	t=-1.02 P=.30	t=-1.61 P=.10	t=-2.84 P=.005	t=0.91 P=.36	t=-2.74 P=.006
Duration of living with type 2 diabetes (8.29 ± 6.72)	r=-0.09 P=.134	r=-0.12 P=.05	r=-0.11 P=.06	r=-0.16 P=.01	r=-0.21 P=.001	r=0.23 P=.000	r=-0.38 P=.000

Tukey HSD test results are shown using a, b, c, d values.

due to type 2 diabetes was examined, it was determined that the mean scores of the health ( $P = .01$ ) domain of those with monthly controls were significantly higher than those weekly controls. It was found that the mean scores of engagement ( $P = .03$ ), accomplishment ( $P = .005$ ), and health ( $P = .006$ ) domains of the participants who had a history of hospitalization for type 2 diabetes were significantly lower. After the relationship between the duration of living with type 2 diabetes and the domains of the PERMA scale was examined, a statistically significant and negative relationship was found between the mean scores of the meaning ( $P = .01$ ), accomplishment ( $P = .001$ ), and health ( $P < .001$ ) domains; on the other hand, a statistically significant and positive relationship was found between negative emotion ( $P < .001$ ) domain mean scores. The participants who can always adapt to the recommended diet had significantly low scores than the others in the positive emotion ( $P = .03$ ) and relationship ( $P = .02$ ) domains, while they got high scores in the negative emotion ( $P = .004$ ) domain. It was also found that the participants able to always adapt had significantly higher scores from the domain of accomplishment ( $P = .002$ ) than those able to rarely adapt, while participants generally adapting the recommended diet had higher meaning ( $P = .03$ ) domain scores than those rarely adapting. Relationships ( $P = .03$ ) and health ( $P < .001$ ) domain scores of individuals always adapting to the recommended activities were found to be significantly lower

than the other groups. Those sometimes adapting to the recommended activities had significantly higher meaning ( $P = .005$ ) and accomplishment ( $P = .02$ ) scores than those rarely adapting. Positive emotions ( $P = .01$ ), relationships ( $P = .001$ ), meaning ( $P < .001$ ), and health ( $P = .002$ ) domain mean scores of participants who received informal support in their life experience with type 2 diabetes were higher than those who did not receive support, while negative emotion domain mean scores were lower. According to the other variables in Table 5, no statistically significant difference was found between the mean scores of the PERMA scale domains ( $P > .05$ ).

### DISCUSSION

The findings of this study, which examined the sociodemographic characteristics and well-being levels of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in terms of their life experiences with the disease, are discussed in this section.

According to the sociodemographic characteristics of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, the mean scores of the PERMA scale domains are given in Table 4. It was found that there was no significant difference between the well-being levels of individuals according to their gender, which is different from some findings on this issue in the literature. Considering the findings of the research on whether well-being varies

according to gender, one may notice different results. In some studies, it was found that women's well-being levels were better than men,<sup>20,21</sup> and in some, men were found to have higher positive emotion scores than women.<sup>13</sup> In addition, there are a great number of studies with various sample groups reporting that there is no significant difference in the level of well-being according to gender.<sup>22</sup> The research finding of this study is in line with the literature.

It was determined that there was no significant difference between the well-being levels of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes according to their marital status ( Table 4). The literature review reveals that among individuals diagnosed with diabetes, the quality of life of married people is higher than that of singles.<sup>23,24</sup>

A significant difference was found between the well-being levels of the participants according to the place of residence ( Table 4). There are studies conducted with different samples that report that there is a significant difference between the mean scores of negative emotions that affect the level of well-being according to the place of residence<sup>25</sup> or that there is no significant difference between the mean scores of the level of well-being.<sup>26</sup> One of the results of this study is that among individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, the well-being levels of those living in villages are higher than those living in cities and districts, which is because they have more comfortable freedom of movement and clean air as a result of being engaged in gardening.

A significant difference was found between the scores of "negative emotions" and "health" domains in terms of the educational status variable of the participants ( Table 4). There are studies in the literature showing that educational status affects well-being<sup>14</sup> or not.<sup>27</sup> In a study on the quality of life of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, Cruz et al<sup>28</sup> stated that low education level affects the quality of life in diabetic patients, that the quality of life of diabetic individuals with low education level is lower than diabetic individuals with high education level, and that there is a significant difference between their quality of life according to their education level. Huang et al.<sup>29</sup> Çitil et al.<sup>30</sup> and Lu et al<sup>31</sup> found similar results in their studies. The fact that graduates of university felt more negative emotions than those with lower education levels may be related to their inability to manage stress arising from awareness.

A significant difference was found between the areas of well-being such as "positive emotions," "meaning," "success," "negative emotions," and "health" according to the employment status of individuals with type 2 diabetes ( Table 4). The mean scores of the working individuals in the areas of positive emotions, meaning, success, and health were higher than those in the non-working areas, and the mean scores in the area of negative emotions of the working individuals were found to be lower than those of the non-working individuals (Table 4). Studies examining the quality of life of individuals with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes also show that the employment status is an influencing variable.<sup>32,33</sup> It is thought that the high well-being of employed individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes may be due to their high welfare and quality of life and nutrition.

According to the findings obtained from the study, as the age of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes increases, the mean scores of "positive emotions," "engagement," "relationships,"

"meaning," "accomplishment," and "health" decrease, while the mean scores of "negative emotions" increase (Table 5). Prajapati et al<sup>34</sup> stated in their study that as the age of patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes increases, their well-being and quality of life decrease and that there was a significant relationship between the age of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, their well-being, and quality of life. In addition, studies in the literature show that as the age of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes increases, their well-being levels and quality of life decrease.<sup>28,29,35,36</sup> It is possible to imply that the fact that the age of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes increases based on the development of disease-related complications (such as diabetic foot, heart, and eye diseases) may stem from the greater fear of death they feel.

A significant difference was found between the mean scores of the PERMA scale "negative emotions" and "health" domains according to the types of treatment applied to individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes ( Table 5). The mean scores of the negative emotions domain of individuals treated with oral anti-diabetic agents were lower than those treated with insulin and oral antidiabetic agents, while the mean scores of the health domain of individuals treated with oral antidiabetic agents were higher than those treated with insulin and oral antidiabetic agents (Table 5). In the literature, there are studies showing that patients using insulin have a lower quality of life than patients using only oral drugs.<sup>37,38</sup> In the study, the low level of well-being of patients who received insulin and oral antidiabetic treatment together may be due to the fact that the use of insulin requires more follow-up and effort, and the individual feels more about lifestyle changes.

A significant difference was found between "positive emotions," "relationships," "meaning," "negative emotions," and "health" domains of well-being according to other health problems related to the disease suffered by individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes ( Table 5). Individuals who do not have any other health problems related to the disease have higher mean scores of positive emotions, relationships, meaning, and health domains than individuals with other health problems related to the disease, while they have lower mean scores of the "negative emotion" domain (Table 5). Eren and Erdi<sup>39</sup> suggest that individuals with chronic diseases have higher levels of well-being than individuals without chronic diseases. In a study on the quality of life of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, Imayama et al<sup>40</sup> pointed out that individuals with other health problems related to diabetes have a lower quality of life than those who do not have a health problem other than diabetes and that there is a significant difference between their quality of life according to their health problems related to diabetes. Similarly, Green et al.<sup>41</sup> who studied individuals with type 2 diabetes suffering from chronic diseases and individuals without chronic diseases, specified that the quality of life of individuals with chronic disease type 2 diabetes is lower than that of patients without chronic diseases and that there is a significant difference between their quality of life according to whether they suffer from chronic disease or not. Kumar et al.<sup>38</sup> Trikkalinou et al.<sup>33</sup> and Mokhtari et al<sup>42</sup> found similar results in their study. It is possible to imply that individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes have a higher level of well-being than those with chronic diseases, as having chronic diseases related to diabetes negatively affects their life processes with diabetes.

It was found that individuals with type 2 diabetes going for a checkup once a month had higher mean scores of the health domain than those going for a checkup once a week (Table 5). Daya et al<sup>43</sup> revealed that as the duration of diabetes increases and patients' diabetes frequency of checkup increases, their quality of life is negatively affected. Redekop et al.<sup>36</sup> Koh et al.<sup>44</sup> Fu et al.<sup>45</sup> and Amelia et al<sup>46</sup> found similar results in their studies.

In the study, it was determined that individuals with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes who do not have a hospitalization history had higher mean scores of accomplishment and health domains than individuals with a hospitalization history (Table 5). In the literature, there are studies showing that individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes who do not have a previous hospitalization history have a higher quality of life than those with a hospitalization history.<sup>34,35</sup> It can be said that the higher level of well-being of individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes compared to those without hospitalization history is due to the advanced disease of those with a hospitalization history.

As individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes live longer with the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, the mean scores of "meaning," "accomplishment," and "health" domains of well-being decrease, and the mean scores of "negative emotions" increase (Table 5). Corrêa et al<sup>24</sup> and Verma and Dadarwal<sup>23</sup> revealed that as the duration of diagnosis of type 2 diabetes increases, the well-being levels and quality of life of patients with type 2

diabetes decrease, and there is a significant difference between the life experience and well-being and quality of life of patients with type 2 diabetes. In addition, studies in the literature show that as the duration of diabetes increases, the quality of life decreases.<sup>29,30,45,46</sup> It can be said that the psychological and mental strain of diabetic patients results in the following issues: as individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes live longer with the relevant diagnosis, their well-being level decreases, no regression occurs in the disease in parallel with the increase in the duration of the disease, and patients struggle with the negativities brought by the disease as a result of aging.

Individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes who adapt to the recommended diet had higher mean scores in the meaning domain than those who rarely adapt, and the mean scores in the accomplishment domain of individuals who always adapt are higher than those who rarely adapt (Table 6). Studies in the literature reveal that individuals who have a regular diet have high well-being levels. Saatci et al<sup>14</sup> suggested that regular dieting in diabetic patients affects the general well-being. In addition, studies in the literature show that regular dieting has a positive effect on the quality of life.<sup>36,40</sup>

Individuals with type 2 diabetes who always adapt to the recommended activities had generally lower mean scores of relationships and health domains than individuals who sometimes or rarely adapt to the recommended activities, and individuals

**Table 6. The Mean Scores of the Sub-Dimensions of the PERMA Scale in Terms of the Diet, Exercise, and Support Experience of the Participants with Type 2 Diabetes**

	PERMA Scale Domains						
	Positive Emotions	Engagement	Relationships	Meaning	Accomplishment	Negative Emotions	Health
Life Experiences	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD
Adaptation to the recommended diet							
Always	7.33 ± 1.75a	8.61 ± 1.06	7.76 ± 1.92a	8.57 ± 0.62a	9.23 ± 0.78a	5.04 ± 2.15a	7.33 ± 1.21
Often	8.33 ± 0.71b	8.30 ± 0.87	8.45 ± 0.66b	8.40 ± 0.78b	8.73 ± 0.63b	3.49 ± 1.63b	7.52 ± 1.36
Sometimes	8.38 ± 0.88c	8.50 ± 0.82	8.60 ± 0.79c	8.09 ± 1.01c	8.58 ± 0.96c	2.96 ± 1.46c	7.55 ± 1.61
Rarely	8.35 ± 0.98d	8.36 ± 0.73	8.31 ± 0.90d	7.94 ± 1.09d	8.24 ± 1.10d	3.07 ± 1.59d	7.59 ± 1.65
Test and P-value	F=2.84 P=.03 a<b,c,d	F=1.01 P=.38	F=3.21 P=.02 a<b,c,d	F=2.97 P=.03 b>d	F=5.02 P=.002 a>d	F=4.64 P=.004 a>b,c,d	F=0.073 P=.97
Adaptation to the recommended activities							
Always	7.66 ± 3.29	8.00 ± 1.88	7.83 ± 2.12a	7.50 ± 3.53a	8.00 ± 2.82a	3.00 ± 4.24	5.16 ± 0.23a
Often	8.50 ± 0.61	8.49 ± 0.85	8.69 ± 0.69b	8.37 ± 0.63b	8.64 ± 0.78b	2.95 ± 1.78	8.05 ± 1.22b
Sometimes	8.39 ± 0.89	8.53 ± 0.67	8.53 ± 0.82c	8.31 ± 0.66c	8.68 ± 0.71c	2.96 ± 1.47	7.87 ± 1.23c
Rarely	8.24 ± 0.99	8.29 ± 0.85	8.28 ± 0.92d	7.88 ± 1.21d	8.30 ± 1.16d	3.39 ± 1.61	7.21 ± 1.77d
Test and P-value	F=1.20 P=.31	F=1.91 P=.12	F=2.94 P=.03 a<b,c,d	F=4.39 P=.005 c>d	F=3.16 P=.02 c>d	F=1.54 P=.20	F=6.25 P=.000 a<b,c,d
Informal support status							
Yes	8.36 ± 0.92	8.42 ± 0.81	8.46 ± 0.80	8.16 ± 0.88	8.49 ± 1.01	3.12 ± 1.57	7.62 ± 1.51
No	7.63 ± 1.07	8.03 ± 0.48	7.56 ± 1.85	6.70 ± 2.34	8.43 ± 0.44	4.36 ± 2.12	6.10 ± 2.23
Test and P-value	t=2.44 P=.01	t=1.51 P=.13	t=3.22 P=.001	t=4.647 P=.000	t=0.190 P=.84	t=-2.41 P=.01	t=3.05 P=.002

Tukey HSD test results are shown using a, b, c, d values.

who sometimes adapt to the activities had higher mean scores of meaning and accomplishment domains than individuals who rarely adapt (Table 6). Krousel-Wood et al<sup>47</sup> identified that the well-being levels of diabetic patients who exercise regularly are high, and there is a significant difference between their well-being levels. It is known that regular adherence to physical activity programs reduces the development of complications and mortality in patients with diabetes.<sup>14</sup> In the literature, there are studies reporting the positive effect of regular exercise on the quality of life of patients with type 2 diabetes.<sup>48,49</sup>

Individuals who received informal support in their life experience with type 2 diabetes had higher mean scores of positive emotions, relationships, meaning, and health domains than individuals who did not receive support, and the mean scores of the negative emotions domain for those receiving informal support were lower than those who did not receive support (Table 6). Similarly, Shen,<sup>50</sup> Peyrot et al.<sup>51</sup> Shayeghian et al.<sup>1</sup> Rotberg et al.<sup>52</sup> and Muslu et al<sup>53</sup> determined that social support positively affects the well-being levels of sick individuals, and there is a significant difference between social support and well-being levels.

### Study Limitations

The limitations of this research are that it was conducted in a single center and was carried out only in a quantitative research design.

It has been concluded that individuals diagnosed with type 2 diabetes have a high level of well-being, which varies depending on the place of residence, education level, employment status, types of treatment, other health problems related to the disease, hospitalization history, adaptation to the recommended diet, adaptation to the recommended activities, and to what extent informal support is received.

In light of research results, it is recommended:

- To take into account that well-being levels may vary depending on factors such as age, the place of residence, education level, employment status, duration of living with the disease, other health problems related to the disease, frequency of going to controls, hospitalization history, adaptation to the recommended diet, adaptation to the recommended activities, and to what extent informal support is received during experiences of living with type 2 diabetes;
- To be periodically evaluated by nurses in terms of life experiences with type 2 diabetes and to include strategies of increasing well-being in the patient care.

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**Informed Consent:** Written informed consent was obtained from patients who participated in this study.

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# The Effect of Oncology and Palliative Care Nurses' Compassion Fatigue on Job and Life Satisfaction

## Onkoloji ve Palyatif Bakım Servisinde Çalışan Hemşirelerin Merhamet Yorgunluğunun İş ve Yaşam Doyumuna Etkisi

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### ABSTRACT

#### Objective:

This study aimed to determine the effect of compassion fatigue on the job and life satisfaction of nurses working in the Oncology and Palliative Care services.

**Methods:** This research was conducted in the oncology and palliative care units of all the hospitals under the Ministry of Health in the Central Black Sea region of Turkey. No sampling was carried out, and the study was conducted with 110 nurses available who met the criteria. Data were collected using a Descriptive Form, the Professional Quality of Life IV-Compassion Fatigue Sub-Scale, the Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire, and the Satisfaction with Life Scale and analyzed using frequency, mean, standard deviation, oneway analysis of variance, independent samples *t*-test, Kruskal-Wallis test, and Mann-Whitney *U*-test statistics.

**Results:** The study results evinced the mean score of Professional Quality of Life-Compassion Fatigue (PRoQOL-CF-IV) as  $22.6 \pm 7.44$ , the average score of Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire (MSQ) as  $57.7 \pm 13.07$ , and the mean Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) score as  $12.4 \pm 4.52$ . A negative correlation was found between the nurses' compassion fatigue mean scores and life satisfaction scores and a positive correlation was found between job satisfaction and life satisfaction ( $P = .036$ ,  $P = .001$ ).

**Conclusion:** This study found that nurses experienced low levels of compassion fatigue and high levels of job satisfaction and life satisfaction, that an increase in compassion fatigue negatively affected life satisfaction but did not affect job satisfaction, and that an increase in job satisfaction had a positive effect on life satisfaction.

**Keywords:** compassion fatigue, job satisfaction, life satisfaction, nursing, oncology, palliative care, psycho-oncology

### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu araştırma Onkoloji ve Palyatif Bakım servisinde çalışan hemşirelerin merhamet yorgunluğunun iş ve yaşam doyumuna etkisini belirlemek amacıyla tanımlayıcı olarak yapılmıştır.

**Yöntemler:** Araştırma, Türkiye'nin Orta Karadeniz bölgesinde yer alan Sağlık Bakanlığına bağlı tüm hastanelerin onkoloji ve palyatif bakım birimlerinde gerçekleştirilmiştir. Araştırmada örneklem seçimine gidilmemiş ulaşılabilen ve kriteri sağlayan 110 hemşire ile yürütülmüştür. Araştırmada veri toplama amacıyla, Tanıtıcı Form, Çalışanlar için Yaşam Kalitesi- Merhamet Yorgunluğu Alt Ölçeği (ÇYKÖ-MY), Minnesota İş Doyum Ölçeği (MİDÖ) ve Yaşam Doyum Ölçeği (YDÖ) ile toplanmıştır. Verilerin analizinde frekans, ortalama, standart sapma, tek yönlü varyans analizi, bağımsız örnekler *t* testi, Kruskal Wallis ve Mann Whitney *U* test istatistiği kullanılmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Araştırmada ÇYKÖ merhamet yorgunluğu puan ortalaması  $22,6 \pm 7,44$ ; MİDÖ puan ortalaması  $57,7 \pm 13,07$ ; YDÖ puan ortalaması  $12,4 \pm 4,52$  olarak bulunmuştur. Hemşirelerin merhamet yorgunluğu puan ortalamaları yaşam doyumunu puan ortalamaları arasında negatif yönlü, iş doyumunu ile yaşam doyumunu arasında pozitif yönlü ilişki belirlenmiştir ( $P = .036$ ,  $P = .001$ ).

**Sonuç:** Hemşirelerin düşük düzeyde merhamet yorgunluğu, yüksek düzeyde iş doyumu ve yaşam doyumu yaşadığı saptanmıştır. Merhamet yorgunluğunun artmasının yaşam doyumunu olumsuz etkilediği, iş doyumunu ise etkilemediği belirlenmiştir. Hemşirelerin iş doyumunun artmasının yaşam doyumunu olumlu etkilediği belirlenmiştir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Merhamet yorgunluğu, iş doyumu, yaşam doyumunu, hemşirelik, onkoloji, palyatif bakım, psiko-onkoloji.

## INTRODUCTION

Compassion fatigue is described as an occupational hazard for healthcare professionals caring for patients with severe trauma and pain<sup>1</sup> and is defined as “distress caused by repeated or prolonged expression of compassion or empathy.”<sup>2</sup> A meta-analysis reported that compassion fatigue was observed in 53% of nurses.<sup>3</sup> Oncology and palliative care nurses work with patients with intense care needs, severe pain, and in the terminal period and face the losses of patients they provide long-term care.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, the risk of nurses who care for these patient groups to develop compassion fatigue increases.<sup>5</sup> Awareness of compassion fatigue and its symptoms can serve as a barometer for the nurse, as well as creating an early warning system.<sup>1</sup> Compassion fatigue can lead to other negative consequences for both nurses and patients by decreasing the pleasure taken from work and life.<sup>6</sup>

Jenkins and Warren<sup>6</sup> evinced that individuals disappointed in the work environment develop adverse reactions toward their jobs. Compassion fatigue can lead to the disruption of the communication between the patient and the nurse, an increase in the number of leaves taken, the misinterpretation of the information received, a decrease in patient satisfaction and the quality of care, an increase in the number of resignations, and fear to provide care to the patient.<sup>17</sup> Alan<sup>8</sup> stated that compassion fatigue, expressed as the emotional burden of care, negatively affected life in general as well as professional life. Compassion fatigue can cause problems in close relationships in daily life, substance use, increased anxiety and meaningless fears, deterioration of worldview, and decreased sympathy and empathy skills.<sup>1</sup> Witnessing the pain of patients and their relatives in this challenging process and being in contact with them limits the ability of nurses to provide compassionate care in the long term.<sup>4</sup>

It is necessary to recognize compassion fatigue and its effects on job and life satisfaction to maintain the patient's quality of care and create a satisfying work and living space for the nurse.

## METHODS

### Sample

This descriptive and relationship-seeking research was conducted between December 2018 and December 2019. The research population consisted of 132 nurses working in the oncology and palliative care units of the hospitals under the Ministry of Health (8 hospitals) located in the Central Black Sea region of Türkiye (northern Türkiye), had no communication barriers, and had been working in their unit for at least 6 months. We aimed to reach the whole universe by not selecting samples. However, 5 nurses on annual leave during the research and 18 who did not want to participate by their own will could not be included in the study. Thus, the study was conducted with 110 nurses (80% of the population).

### Statistical Analysis

The quantitative data obtained in this study were analyzed using the IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS

Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) 25 program. Quantitative data were presented as frequency, percentage, mean–SD, and median. To determine the relationship between the scale total scores and the descriptive characteristics of the nurses, in the analysis of normally distributed data, we used a *t*-test for the comparison between groups for independent groups and a 1-way analysis of variance in case there were 3 or more groups. Mann–Whitney *U*-test was used to compare groups to analyze data that did not show normal distribution. The level of significance was taken as  $P < .05$ .

### Instrument

This descriptive study used a Descriptive Form prepared by the researcher in line with the literature, Data were collected using the Professional Quality of Life Scale-IV-Compassion Fatigue (ProQOL-CF-IV), the Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire (MSQ), and the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS).

### Descriptive Form

The form included 8 questions about the sociodemographic and working characteristics of the nurses (age, gender, marital status, professional experience, satisfaction with working conditions, whether they have chosen the department where they work willingly, whether willingly doing their job, etc.) and 2 questions about general information (whether being affected by traumatizing events encountered in the working environment and whether having received psychological support).

### Professional Quality of Life Scale IV-Compassion Fatigue

The Turkish validity and reliability of the Professional Quality of Life Scale IV-Compassion Fatigue (ProQOL-CF-IV), which was prepared by Stamm,<sup>9</sup> was done by Yeşil et al.<sup>10</sup> It is a self-assessment scale with 3 sub-scales—compassion satisfaction, burnout, and compassion fatigue—and 30 items. The scale does not have a total score. The sub-scales are used separately. Compassion fatigue subscale consists of 10 items. The assessment uses a 6-step chart scoring ranging from “Never” (0) to “Very often” (5) (Min 0–Max 50). Compassion fatigue increases as the scores increase.<sup>10</sup> In the validity and reliability study, the cronbach alpha value of compassion fatigue was determined as 0.80. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient ( $\alpha$ ) for the compassion fatigue sub-dimension in this study was determined as 0.84.

### Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire

The Minnesota Job Satisfaction Scale was developed by Weiss et al.<sup>11</sup> and its Turkish validity and reliability were done by Baycan.<sup>12</sup> It is a 5-point Likert-type self-assessment scale consisting of 20 questions. Scoring ranging from “Not satisfied at all” (1) to “Very satisfied (5)” is used to evaluate the scale. The highest score on the scale is 100, while the lowest is 20. The satisfaction level decreases as the scores approach 20, while the satisfaction level increases closer to 100.<sup>12</sup> In the validity and reliability study, the cronbach alpha value was determined as 0.77. The cronbach alpha coefficient ( $\alpha$ ) in this study was found to be 0.90.

**Satisfaction with Life Scale**

The Turkish validity and reliability of the SWLS, developed by Diener, Emmons, Larsen, and Griffin (1985), was conducted by Dağlı and Baysal.<sup>13</sup> It is a self-assessment scale consisting of 5 questions. The evaluation of the scale uses a 5-point Likert-type assessment, with scores ranging from “I strongly disagree (1)” to “I completely agree (5)”. An increase in scores indicates an increased satisfaction with life.<sup>13</sup> In the validity and reliability study, the cronbach alpha value was determined as 0.88. The cronbach alpha coefficient of the scale in this study was determined to be 0.87.

**RESULTS**

In this study, 68.2% of the participant nurses were working in the palliative care unit. Their mean scores of compassion fatigue were 22.6 ± 7.44, job satisfaction 57.7 ± 13.07, and life satisfaction 12.4 ± 4.52 (Table 1). Score distributions of compassion fatigue and job and life satisfaction scales were given according to specific characteristics of nurses. Accordingly, we found that compassion fatigue was affected by traumatic events and whether psychological support was received or not (*P* < .001). A statistically significant difference was found between job satisfaction and the variables of clinic worked, willingness to work, satisfaction with working conditions, and psychological support received (*P* = .037, *P* = .001, *P* < .001, *P* = .022 Table 2). The difference between life satisfaction and the variables of willingness to work, satisfaction with working conditions, and being affected by trauma was statistically significant (*P* = .001, *P* = .010, *P* = .023 Table 2). No correlation was found between compassion fatigue and job satisfaction (*r* = -0.146; *P* = .127), while there was a negative correlation between compassion fatigue and life satisfaction (*r* = -0.200, *P* = .036). However, a weak positive relationship was found between job satisfaction and life satisfaction (*r* = 0.386, *P* < .001; Table 3).

**DISCUSSION**

This study found the compassion fatigue of oncology and palliative care nurses to be low (22.6 ± 7.44; Table 1). Al-Maji et al<sup>14</sup> and Mooney et al<sup>15</sup> obtained similar results. The study by Khan et al<sup>16</sup> conducted with 254 healthcare workers reported that 34.8% of the nurses experienced low and 65.2% experienced moderate risk compassion fatigue, while none had a high-risk score average. In parallel to the results of this study, many studies in the literature also showed that nurses experienced low levels of compassion fatigue.<sup>17</sup>

The nurses in this study had high job satisfaction. Similarly, Korzeniewska et al<sup>18</sup> stated that palliative care professionals experienced high job satisfaction. Kumaş et al<sup>19</sup> also reported high nurse job satisfaction. Furthermore, the studies in the literature conducted to examine the job satisfaction of nurses determined that the job satisfaction levels of nurses were above average.<sup>20</sup>

This study observed that oncology and palliative care nurses had a high level of life satisfaction. Similarly, Piotrkowska et al<sup>21</sup> and Eren<sup>22</sup> also reported that oncology nurses had high life satisfaction. Furthermore, Atasoy and Turan<sup>23</sup> reported the same. Topuz<sup>24</sup>

**Table 2. Compassion Fatigue, Job, and Life Satisfaction Mean Scores According to Certain Variables**

Variables	n	%	ProQOL-CF	MSQ	SWLS
<i>Age</i>					
20-30	40	36.4	11 (1-38)	58.0 ± 14.0	12.0 ± 3.9
31-41	33	30.0	13 (3-36)	53.7 ± 12.9	12.2 ± 4.6
≥42	37	33.6	13 (0-24)	60.9 ± 11.5	13.2 ± 5.1
			<i>X</i> <sup>2</sup> =1.285; <i>P</i> =.526	<i>F</i> =2.72; <i>P</i> =.070	<i>F</i> =0.78; <i>P</i> =.461
<i>Gender</i>					
Female	98	89.1	12 (0-38)	57.6 ± 12.6	13 (5-24)
Male	12	10.9	7 (1-24)	58.3 ± 16.9	10 (5-20)
			<i>U</i> =423.0; <i>P</i> =.113	<i>t</i> =-1.54; <i>P</i> =.878	<i>U</i> =385.5; <i>P</i> =.052
<i>Marital status</i>					
Married	72	65.5	12.5 (0-31)	57.6 ± 12.9	13 (5-24)
Single	38	34.5	11.0 (1-38)	57.8 ± 13.5	10 (5-20)
			<i>U</i> =1.348; <i>P</i> =.900	<i>t</i> =-0.067; <i>P</i> =.947	<i>U</i> =1.118; <i>P</i> =.116
<i>Educational status</i>					
High-school	5	4.5	12.0 (10-17)	48.8 ± 15.1	12.0 (5-16)
Associate	32	29.1	10.5 (0-38)	60.7 ± 11.3	12.5 (5-24)
Undergraduate	66	60.0	11.0 (1-36)	56.9 ± 13.9	12.0 (5-23)
Postgraduate	7	6.4	13.0 (4-18)	57.4 ± 9.1	14.0 (9-19)
			<i>X</i> <sup>2</sup> =0.485; <i>P</i> =.922	<i>F</i> =1.434; <i>P</i> =.237	<i>X</i> <sup>2</sup> =1.049; <i>P</i> =.789
<i>Work unit</i>					
Palliative care	75	68.2	11 (1-38)	56.1 ± 13.9	12.2 ± 4.6
Oncology service	35	31.8	10 (0-24)	61.1 ± 10.4	12.9 ± 4.4
			<i>U</i> =1.196; <i>P</i> =.456	<b><i>t</i> = -2.119; <i>P</i> = .037</b>	<i>t</i> = -7.09; <i>P</i> = .480
<i>Professional experience (years)</i>					
≤10	47	42.7	11 (1-38)	56.3 ± 14.5	12.2 ± 4.1
11-24	25	22.7	10 (3-36)	55.8 ± 12.1	11.8 ± 4.0
≥25	38	34.5	14 (0-29)	60.7 ± 11.5	13.1 ± 5.3
			<i>X</i> <sup>2</sup> =1.152; <i>P</i> =.562	<i>F</i> =1.540; <i>P</i> =.219	<i>F</i> =0.642; <i>P</i> =.528
<i>Doing job willingly</i>					
Yes	84	76.4	11.0 (0-38)	59.9 ± 13.1	13.3 ± 4.6
No	26	23.6	13.5 (1-29)	50.7 ± 10.2	9.6 ± 2.8
			<i>U</i> =1.269; <i>P</i> =.86	<b><i>t</i> = 3.263; <i>P</i> = .001</b>	<b><i>t</i> = 4.920; <i>P</i> &lt; .001</b>
<i>Satisfied with working conditions</i>					
Yes	33	30.0	11 (0-21)	66.9 ± 10.4	14 (7-24)
No	77	70.0	12 (3-38)	53.7 ± 12.1	11 (5-23)
			<i>U</i> =1.452; <i>P</i> =.234	<b><i>t</i> = 5.456; <i>P</i> &lt; .001</b>	<b><i>U</i> = 876.5; <i>P</i> = .010</b>
<i>Affected by traumatic events</i>					

(Continued)

**Table 1. Compassion Fatigue, Job Satisfaction, and Life Satisfaction Scale Total Scores**

Scales	X ± SS	Minimum–Maximum Score
ProQOL-CF	12.6 ± 7.44	0-50
MSQ	57.7 ± 13.07	20-100
SWLS	12.4 ± 4.52	5-25

MSQ, Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire; ProQOL-CF, Professional Quality of Life IV-Compassion Fatigue Sub-Scale; SWLS, Satisfaction with Life Scale.

**Table 2. Compassion Fatigue, Job, and Life Satisfaction Mean Scores According to Certain Variables (Continued)**

Variables	n	%	ProQOL-CF	MSQ	SWLS
Yes	73	66.4	13 (3-38)	56.3 ± 12.7	11 (5-23)
No	37	33.6	12 (3-38)	60.5 ± 13.4	14 (5-24)
			<b>U = 798.0;</b> <b>P &lt; .001</b>	<b>t = -1.635;</b> <b>P = .105</b>	<b>U = 991.5;</b> <b>P = .023</b>
<i>Psychological support received</i>					
Yes	17	15.5	18 (4-38)	51.1 ± 11.5	11 (5-20)
No	93	84.5	11 (0-36)	58.9 ± 13.0	13 (5-24)
			<b>U = 527.0;</b> <b>P = .029</b>	<b>t = 2.324;</b> <b>P = .022</b>	<b>U = 664.0;</b> <b>P = .294</b>

MSQ, Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire; ProQOL-CF, Professional Quality of Life Scale-Compassion Fatigue; SWLS, Satisfaction with Life Scale.

stated the total score of nurses' life satisfaction as  $10.30 \pm 7.03$ . In a study conducted in Iran, Mirfarhadi et al<sup>25</sup> reported that 81.9% of the nurses participating in the study had high life satisfaction. Other studies have also reported that the level of life satisfaction of nurses was high.<sup>26</sup> Thus, the findings of this study were in line with the literature. The high life satisfaction of the nurses has been associated with the sense of satisfaction that caregiving gives to the caregiver. Nursing, which is a helping profession, raises the nurses' self-perception of value while caring for the patient, and this, in turn, increases life satisfaction.

This study evinced that the compassion fatigue score was affected by the variable of being affected by traumatic events and receiving psychological support ( $P < .05$ ). This finding is similar to the results of the studies examining nurses' compassion fatigue.<sup>22,27,28</sup> Other studies stated that nurses working in oncology and palliative care clinics could experience compassion fatigue due to the constant suffering and deaths of the patient population they cared for.<sup>29</sup>

Bab<sup>30</sup> reported in their study conducted with those working in the field of oncology that 92.9% of the participant employees experienced social, physical, and psychological problems, while Eren<sup>22</sup> reported that working with terminal patients and their relatives could lead to the need for psychological support for nurses. Similar to the results of this study, Bağcıvan<sup>28</sup> reported that nurses who were not satisfied with their lives experienced higher compassion fatigue. Rees et al<sup>31</sup> put forth endurance as an essential weapon against compassion fatigue.

This study found that the job satisfaction of the nurses working in the oncology unit was higher, and the difference was statistically significant ( $P < .05$ ). Although there were similar findings in the literature,<sup>32,33</sup> Head et al<sup>34</sup> reported high job satisfaction among

**Table 3. The Relationship Between Compassion Fatigue and Job and Life Satisfaction**

Scales	MSQ	SWLS
ProQOL-CF	$r = -0.146$ $P = .127$	$r = -0.200$ $P = .036^*$
MSQ		$r = 0.386$ $P < .001^{**}$

$r$  = Spearman's rho correlation coefficient.

MSQ, Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire; ProQOL-CF, Professional Quality of Life Scale-Compassion Fatigue; SWLS, Satisfaction with Life Scale.

<sup>\*</sup> $P < .001$ , <sup>\*\*</sup> $P < .05$ .

palliative care and hospice nurses. This study evinced that the job satisfaction of nurses was affected by the variables of willingly choosing the unit they work in, being satisfied with their working conditions, willingly doing their job, getting psychological support, and being affected by traumatic situations. In their literature review, Lu et al<sup>35</sup> reported that job satisfaction was affected by many factors, such as the quality of patient care, personal characteristics, culture, geographical characteristics, the institution worked in, and perceptions about the profession. Similar to the findings of this study, Başer<sup>36</sup> reported that healthcare workers who did not need psychological support had high job satisfaction.

This study revealed that the life satisfaction of the nurses was affected by the variables of working conditions and being affected by traumatic events ( $P < .05$ ). We determined that nurses satisfied with their working conditions had higher life satisfaction scores. Similarly, Dinç<sup>37</sup> stated that employees satisfied with their work-life had significantly higher life satisfaction scores than those who were not. Eroğlu and Sarıkan<sup>38</sup> reported a significant negative correlation between life satisfaction and trauma experienced in their study with emergency healthcare workers. Bilen and Kiran<sup>39</sup> reported that the life satisfaction of those who witnessed severe injury, disability, or unexpected death events decreased significantly compared to those who never experienced such occurrences.

Evaluation of the relationship between the scales showed that there was a negative relationship between compassion fatigue and life satisfaction (Table 3;  $P = .036$ ,  $r = 0.200$ ). Compassion fatigue, depression, affective disorders, decreased energy, physical symptoms, and so on create conditions that negatively affect the life satisfaction of individuals.<sup>40</sup>

This study found a positive relationship between job satisfaction and life satisfaction ( $P < .001$ ,  $r = 0.386$ ). Sargut and Sargut<sup>41</sup> also reported a significant positive relationship between job and life satisfaction in their study. Similarly, Kazaz mentioned the same in their research.<sup>42</sup> In parallel to the findings of this study, there are studies in the literature that reported that life satisfaction increased when job satisfaction increased.<sup>22,43-45</sup>

### Study Limitations

This research was limited to the relevant sample due to geographical and social differences and cannot be generalized to other groups.

In this study, it was found that the nurses experienced low levels of compassion fatigue and high levels of job and life satisfaction. It was determined that increased compassion fatigue negatively affected life satisfaction but did not affect job satisfaction. It has also been shown that an increase in the job satisfaction of nurses had a positive effect on life satisfaction.

The researchers of this study recommend the following:

Establishing supportive areas that can provide self-care (adequate nutrition and personal time, regular sleep, participation in social activities outside the hospital, exercise, hobby or spiritual practices) to protect nurses from compassion fatigue and increase their life satisfaction. Creating environments where nurses can share their feelings and thoughts to understand the traumatic situations they may encounter or have encountered in their work and personal life, evaluating the social support systems of nurses, and establishing institutions such as "Nursing Renewal Center." Checking the job satisfaction levels of nurses

at regular intervals and creating rest intervals of the shift charts which can contribute to job satisfaction, arranging work areas in a way that can reduce work stress, providing mental and physical relaxation, increasing the number of leaves, reducing overtime, and organizing in-service training to meet the needs of patients who receive regular care.

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# Evaluation of Jigsaw Technique in Nursing Students Learning About Childhood Cancer

## Hemşirelik Öğrencilerinin Çocukluk Çağı Kanserlerini Öğrenmelerinde Jigsaw Tekniğinin Değerlendirilmesi

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Jigsaw technique in nursing students' learning about childhood cancers.

**Methods:** The study was a single-group pre-test-post-test semi-experimental study. The sample of the study consisted of 59 nursing students who took the child health and diseases nursing course. To collect the data, the researchers prepared a student introductory information form, a childhood questionnaire, and an academic self-efficacy scale was used. An independent sample *t*-test was used due to the normal distribution of the data, and paired sample *t*-test was used to compare the scale and information from pre-test and post-test scores to determine the effectiveness of the Jigsaw technique.

**Results:** The mean age of the students participating in the study was  $21.89 \pm 7.69$ , of which 66.10% were women. Of the students, 81.36% stated that they had not received any special training for childhood cancers before. The mean scores of the students on the Academic Self-Efficacy Scale were  $20.06 \pm 3.96$  on the pre-test and  $20.52 \pm 3.80$  on the post-test. While the mean score of the students from the information form prepared for childhood cancers was  $36.01 \pm 9.81$  in the pre-test, it was found to be low, while the mean score of the post-test was  $80.50 \pm 9.36$ , which was found to be at a high level. A statistically significant difference was found between pre-test and post-test mean scores ( $P < .001$ ).

**Conclusion:** The Jigsaw technique is effective in teaching childhood cancers to nursing students. It is recommended to be used in nursing education, especially in specific subjects such as childhood cancer.

**Keywords:** Childhood cancers, Jigsaw technique, nursing education

### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Hemşirelik öğrencilerinin çocukluk çağı kanserlerini öğrenmelerinde jigsaw tekniğinin etkinliğini değerlendirmektir.

**Yöntemler:** Araştırma tek grup ön test son test yarı deneysel olarak yapılmıştır. Araştırmanın örneklemini çocuk sağlığı ve hastalıkları hemşireliği dersini alan 59 hemşirelik öğrencisi oluşturdu. Verilerin toplanmasında araştırmacılar tarafından hazırlanan öğrenciyi tanıtıcı bilgi formu, çocukluk çağı ile ilgili soru formu ve akademik öz yeterlik ölçeği kullanıldı. Verilerin normal dağılıma uygunluk göstermesi nedeniyle independent sample *t*-test, Jigsaw tekniğinin etkililiğini belirlemek amacıyla ölçek ve bilgi formu ön-test ve son-test puanları karşılaştırılmasında ise paired sample *t*-testi kullanıldı.

**Bulgular:** Araştırmaya katılan öğrencilerin yaş ortalaması  $21,89 \pm 7,69$  olup %66,10'u kadındır. Öğrencilerin %81,36'sı daha önce çocukluk çağı kanserlerine yönelik özel bir eğitim almadığını ifade etti. Öğrencilerin Akademik özyeterlik ölçeğinden aldıkları puan ortalamaları ön-test  $20,06 \pm 3,96$ , son-test  $20,52 \pm 3,80$  olup orta düzeyde olduğu saptanmıştır. Öğrencilerin çocukluk çağı kanserlerine yönelik hazırlanan bilgi formundan aldıkları puan ortalamaları ön-test  $36,01 \pm$

9,81 olup düşük düzeydeyken, son-test puan ortalaması  $80,50 \pm 9,36$  olup yüksek düzeyde olduğu saptanmıştır. Ön-test ve son-test puan ortalamaları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık bulunmuştur ( $P < ,001$ ).

**Sonuç:** Araştırmanın bulgularına göre, Jigsaw tekniğinin hemşirelik bölümü öğrencilerinde çocukluk çağı kanserlerinin öğretilmesinde etkili bir teknik olduğu söylenebilir. Hemşirelik eğitiminde özellikle çocukluk çağı kanseri gibi spesifik konularda kullanılması önerilmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Çocukluk çağı kanserleri, Jigsaw tekniği, hemşirelik eğitimi

## INTRODUCTION

Cancer is an important public health problem that can be seen in all age groups, including newborns. Childhood cancer refers to cancer seen in children aged 0-19 years and is the leading cause of death in childhood. Each year, an estimated more than 400.000 children and adolescents under the age of 20 are diagnosed with cancer.<sup>1,2</sup> Cancer is less common in children than adults. In our country, childhood cancers constitute 2% of all cancers, and an average of 3500 children are diagnosed with cancer each year.<sup>3</sup> Childhood cancers, when left untreated, rapidly metastasize to different parts of the body, resulting in death. Timely diagnosis and correct treatments provide recovery. More than 8 out of 10 children who receive the best available care and treatment are recovering. The cause of childhood cancer is largely unknown.<sup>3-5</sup> The number of children who died from cancer in 2019 is estimated to be 100.000.<sup>6</sup> The probability of surviving a diagnosis of childhood cancer varies according to the region of residence. While the cure rate is more than 80% in high-income countries, this rate drops to 20% in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>17</sup> Childhood cancer management requires high-quality clinical services, timely and robust referral processes, and a strong public health program approach.<sup>1-8</sup>

The organization of learning environments is important in terms of providing students with new experiences. Cooperative learning, which is a student-centered approach to education in the learning process, is one of the active teaching methods. Cooperative learning involves the approach of students being divided into small structured groups and helping each other to achieve learning goals together while performing a given task. As a result, it is based on the collection of data by the groups on the subject studied, contributing to the production of the group by combining the individual studies and interpreting them by discussing them together.<sup>9</sup> With the cooperative learning method, a problem-solving, discussion, and reconciliation environment is provided in the educational environment, while the permanence of the acquired knowledge increases.<sup>10</sup> This learning method positively affects the communication and relations within the group, increases the motivation and success of the students, and gives the students critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It has been determined that cooperative learning methods are more effective than traditional methods in the success of students at all educational levels.<sup>11</sup> One of the cooperative learning methods is the "Jigsaw Technique-JT" which was first described by Eliot Aronson (1978).<sup>12</sup> In this technique, concepts such as "Joining", "Separation and Merging", and "Puzzle" are included.<sup>9</sup> In the Jigsaw technique, two different groups are formed, the main group and the separation group. First of all, the main group of students is formed and each member is assigned to a specific subject. Afterward, the students assigned to the main groups are divided into pieces like a puzzle, and the

students working on the same subject in all groups unite to form a split-up group called "expertise groups." The members of this merger group formed work as a team until they learn the subjects assigned to them to study the same subject and specialize in these subjects. Students who leave and return to their original group after mastering the relevant subject in the reunification group pass on the knowledge they have acquired to the team members in their original group.<sup>9,11</sup> Since students are at the center of this technique and the learning process is based on peer communication, students learn to take responsibility, work as a team, and learning becomes permanent in this active learning environment. This technique can be applied in different courses and subjects.<sup>11</sup>

The main purpose of nursing education is to train competent nurses who have the necessary knowledge, attitudes, and skills to protect and improve public health. Clinical decision-making in nursing students requires using different educational methods to develop continuous and student-centered learning capacities.<sup>13</sup> In the literature, there are studies in which the Jigsaw technique is used and effective in education and especially in nursing education.<sup>14-20</sup> In studies with nursing students, the use of the Jigsaw technique has been effective in improving learning outcomes including self-regulation, academic motivation, and knowledge and attitude toward the subject,<sup>18</sup> improving psychomotor skill levels, and increasing their academic achievement and retention of knowledge.<sup>19</sup> In addition, it has been reported that it is effective in terms of the frequency and quality of communication of students with their group mates and the class and providing preparation for the lesson.<sup>20</sup> The Jigsaw technique is recommended to be used for theoretical nursing courses as well as clinical skills training.<sup>13</sup> Although the Jigsaw technique has been proven to be effective in education, there is limited research on the use of this technique in theoretical matters related to nursing education.<sup>11</sup> There is no research in the literature on childhood cancers and nursing care within the scope of child health and diseases nursing using the Jigsaw technique.

### Aim

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the Jigsaw technique in nursing students' learning about childhood cancers.

### Research Hypotheses

H<sub>0</sub>: The Jigsaw technique is not effective for nursing students to learn about childhood cancers.

H<sub>1</sub>: The Jigsaw technique is effective for nursing students to learn about childhood cancers.

## METHODS

### Type of Research

This research is in the pretest-posttest semi-experimental design.

### Population and Sample of the Research

The universe of the research consisted of third year (N=78) students who took the Child Health and Diseases Nursing course in the nursing department of a state university. The sample of the study consisted of all students (n=59) who attended the course on the planned date of the study and agreed to participate in the study (the rate of participation in the study was 75%). Ethics committee approval was obtained for the study from the Non-Interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee of a state university (Date: January 12, 2022, decision no: 480). Written informed consent was obtained from the participants who volunteered to participate in the study. After obtaining all the necessary permissions, the study was carried out by following the steps below.

- In accordance with the learning objectives of the course, 6 subjects of equal intensity were determined.

Subjects:

1. Childhood cancers, differences from adult cancers, incidence, and etiology
2. Leukemia and nursing care in children
3. Lymphoma and nursing care in children
4. Central nervous system tumors and nursing care in children
5. Wilms tumor in children and nursing care
6. Bone tumors and nursing care in children

- **Creating Main Groups:** In the research, 6 main topics were discussed, and 6 groups were formed. The average number of students in the groups is 9, and the method of counting students was chosen randomly. The groups were asked to come up with a name for their group.
- **Briefly Explaining the Subject:** The importance of the subject was explained to the students by the researcher.
- **Establishment of Expert Groups:** Expert groups were formed by randomly taking 1 student from each group.
- **Conducting and Studying the Expertise Group Exam:** After explaining to the students, the "Student Information Form," "Academic Self-Efficacy Scale," and "Childhood Cancer Information Form" were administered as a pre-test. The pre-test period was planned to be 25 minutes. At this stage, the students were generally informed about the subject. The general briefing took 30 minutes. After being informed, a subject was given to the expert groups. It was ensured that the students discussed their subjects in a sitting position (40 minutes). During the expert group study, the researcher was constantly present in the classroom to answer all the questions.
- **Returning Students to Their Main Groups:** At this stage, the students returned to their original groups and each student explained his/her expertise to the rest of the group.
- **Studying and Examining the Main Groups:** At this stage, the groups explained their subjects in the expert groups to their other friends and answered their questions (40 minutes). During the peer group study, the researcher was constantly present in the classroom to answer all the questions. At the end of this study, the "Academic Self-efficacy Scale" and "Childhood Cancer Information Form" were re-administered to all students as a post-test.
- **Measurement and Evaluation:** According to the students' post-test scores, the missing or incorrect parts were corrected by the researcher and the subject was explained again.

The criteria for inclusion in the study were being a nursing student, taking the Child Health and Diseases Nursing course, and agreeing to participate in the research.

The criteria for not being included in the study were refusal to participate in the study and absence on the day of the application.

### Data Collection Tools

#### Student Information Form

There are questions about nicknames, gender, age, and whether they have received training on the subject before.

#### Childhood Cancer Information Form

This form was used as a pre-test and post-test, with 20 multiple-choice (5-choice) questions to evaluate the knowledge of students about childhood cancers, which were created by the researchers by examining the literature.<sup>2,5,21</sup> In order to create this form, expert opinion was obtained from three experts from the Department of Child Health and Diseases Nursing and Oncology Nursing using the Davis technique. As a result of the expert's opinions, the form was revised and the final version was created, taking into account the suggestions of the faculty members. Item Difficulty and Item Discrimination Index Values of the Questionnaire used in the research were analyzed with the IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 26.0 program. According to the analysis results, distinctive questions with a moderate item difficulty index were selected (Table 1).

#### Academic Self-Efficacy Scale

This scale consists of 7 items that were developed by Jerusalem and Schwarzer<sup>22</sup> to evaluate students' academic self-efficacy and show a meaningful structure for 1-dimensional academic self-efficacy. The Turkish validity and reliability of the scale were performed by Yilmaz et al<sup>23</sup> in 2007. The items in the scale are in the form of a "4-point Likert-Type Scale" ("fits me completely," "fits me," "slightly fits me," and "does not fit me at all"). The Turkish validity and reliability study was conducted by Yilmaz et al by

**Table 1. Item Difficulty and Discrimination Index Values of Childhood Cancer Information Form**

Item	Number of Correct	Difficulty Index	Discrimination Index
1	56	0.94	0.38
2	57	0.96	0.61
3	59	1.00	0.21
4	18	0.30	0.60
5	57	0.96	0.21
6	31	0.52	0.36
7	53	0.89	0.32
8	16	0.27	0.57
9	56	0.94	0.22
10	50	0.84	0.32
11	40	0.67	0.18
12	12	0.21	0.46
13	58	0.98	0.21
14	56	0.94	0.46
15	57	0.96	0.36
16	55	0.93	0.26
17	49	0.83	0.53
18	55	0.93	0.26
19	57	0.96	0.41
20	59	1.00	0.40

**Table 2. Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Participants**

Specifications	N	%	Academic Self-Efficacy Scale	Academic Self-Efficacy Scale	Childhood Cancer Information Form	Childhood Cancer Information Form	
			Pre-Test	Post-Test	Pre-Test	Post-Test	
			$\bar{X} \pm SD$	$\bar{X} \pm SD$	$\bar{X} \pm SD$	$\bar{X} \pm SD$	
Gender							
Female	39	66.10	20.51 $\pm$ 4.24	21.17 $\pm$ 3.86	37.17 $\pm$ 10.86	82.05 $\pm$ 9.84	
Male	20	33.90	19.20 $\pm$ 3.30	19.25 $\pm$ 3.41	33.75 $\pm$ 7.04	77.50 $\pm$ 7.69	
<i>P</i>			.232	.65	.150	.77	
Status of receiving education about childhood cancers							
Yes	11	18.64	20.63 $\pm$ 4.56	20.90 $\pm$ 4.22	41.81 $\pm$ 11.88	77.72 $\pm$ 11.48	
No	48	81.36	19.93 $\pm$ 3.86	20.43 $\pm$ 3.74	34.68 $\pm$ 8.89	81.14 $\pm$ 8.82	
<i>P</i>			.603	.646	.028	.279	
Total	59	100					

SD, standard deviation; X, mean.

applying it to 672 university students in 2007. According to the results of the analysis, the number of items, which was 7 in the original scale, was also preserved in the Turkish scale. According to the results of the factor analysis, it was determined that the Turkish scale was also 1-dimensional like the original scale. The Cronbach alpha reliability value of the original scale was stated as 0.87. The Cronbach alpha reliability value of the Turkish scale was determined as 0.79.<sup>23</sup> In this study, the Cronbach Alpha reliability value was found to be 0.79.

### Statistical Analysis

The SPSS 26.0 package program was used to evaluate the data. The data obtained were evaluated by 2 researchers according to the determined criteria. Descriptive statistics was used in the analysis of data; number, percentage, mean, and standard deviation were calculated. An independent sample *t*-test was used due to the normal distribution of the data, and paired sample *t*-test was used to compare the scale and Childhood Cancer Information Form pre-test and post-test scores to determine the effectiveness of the Jigsaw technique. The significance level in the study was accepted as .05.

### RESULTS

The mean age of the students participating in the study was 21.89  $\pm$  7.69, and 66.10% of them were women. Of the students, 81.36% stated that they had not received any special training for childhood cancers before. There was no statistically significant increase in the average scores obtained from the Academic Self-Efficacy Scale and the information form prepared for childhood cancers according to the gender of the students and their previous education about childhood cancers (Table 2).

The mean scores of the students on the Academic Self-Efficacy Scale were 20.06  $\pm$  3.96 on the pre-test and 20.52  $\pm$  3.80 on the post-test. There was no statistically significant difference between pre-test and post-test mean scores (*P* = .041) (Table 3).

When the childhood cancer information form was examined, it was found that the item difficulty indexes were between 0.21 and 1.00, and the item discrimination indexes were between 0.18 and 0.61. Since these findings showed that the discriminative power of the questions in the Questionnaire was 0.15 and above, they were used without removing the item from the form. After it was

decided that the item difficulty and item discrimination levels of the questionnaire were acceptable, it was administered to the group as a pre-test and post-test (Table 1).

While the mean score of the students from the information form prepared for childhood cancers was 36.01  $\pm$  9.81 in the pre-test, it was found to be low, while the mean score of the post-test was 80.50  $\pm$  9.36, which was found to be high. A statistically significant difference was found between the pre-test and post-test mean scores (*P* < .001) (Table 4) (Figure 1).

### DISCUSSION

In this study, the effectiveness of the Jigsaw technique in nursing students' learning about childhood cancers was evaluated. It was

**Table 3. Comparison of Participants' Academic Self-Efficacy Scale Pre-Test-Post-Test Scores**

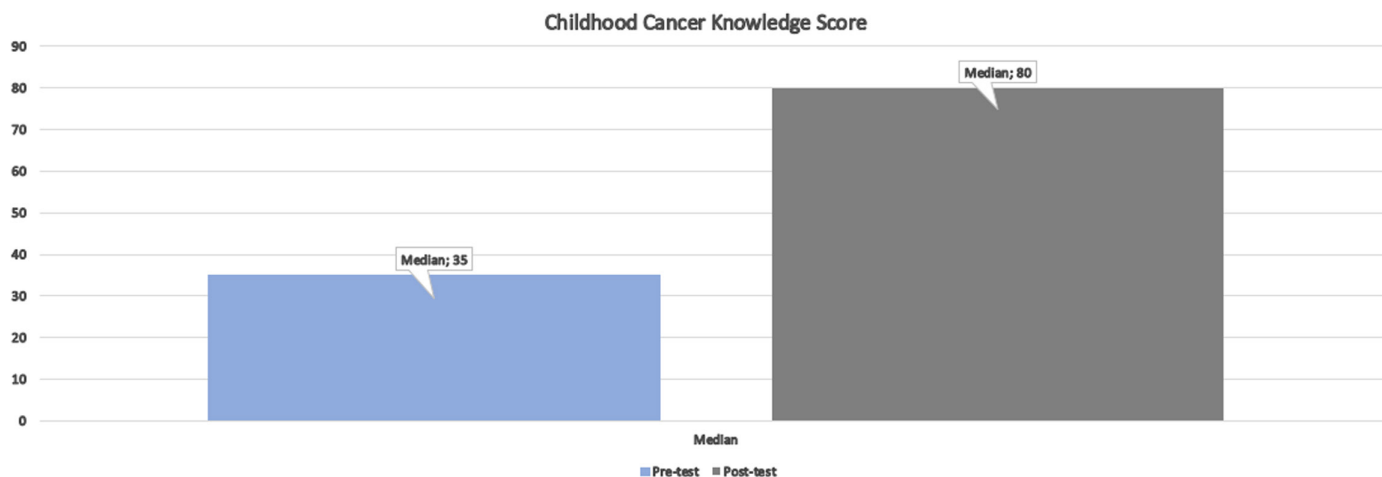
	N	$\bar{X} \pm SD$	Med (Min-Max)	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>P</i>
Academic Self-Efficacy Scale Pre-test	59	20.06 $\pm$ 3.96	20 (13-28)	-2.086	58	.041
Academic Self-Efficacy Scale Post-test	59	20.52 $\pm$ 3.80	20 (13-28)			

Max, maximum; Med, median; min, minimum; SD, standard deviation; X, mean.

**Table 4. Comparison of the Participants' Childhood Cancer Knowledge Scores Pre-Test-Post-Test Mean Scores**

	N	$\bar{X} \pm SD$	Med (Min-Max)	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>P</i>
Childhood Cancer Information Form Pre-test	59	36.01 $\pm$ 9.81	35 (15-60)	-26.244	58	<.001
Childhood Cancer Information Form Post-test	59	80.50 $\pm$ 9.36	80 (50-100)			

Max, maximum; Med, median; min, minimum; SD, standard deviation; X, mean.



**Figure 1.** Childhood Cancer Knowledge Scores pre-test–post-test scores of the participants.

determined that the ages of the nursing students participating in the study were close to each other and more than half of them were women. In the study by Seo and Park,<sup>24</sup> in which they used the Jigsaw technique, it was stated that 109 of 129 nursing students were female and their mean age was  $23.8 \pm 3.9$ . It can be said that our sample group in the study is compatible with the literature.

The fact that almost all of the nursing students in the study did not receive any special training on childhood cancers can be interpreted as the group's lack of readiness for the subject. In addition, the pre-test score averages obtained from the information form prepared for the childhood cancers of the nursing students also support the homogeneity of the group. In the study of Seo and Park,<sup>24</sup> it was determined that the students were homogeneous in terms of their knowledge levels before applying the Jigsaw technique. The low level of knowledge of the students on the subject provides a better prediction of the effectiveness of the applied Jigsaw technique.

Academic self-efficacy is defined as the student's belief that he or she can complete an academic task.<sup>25</sup> It is stated that academic self-efficacy beliefs affect academic achievement.<sup>26</sup> The Academic Self-Efficacy Scale, which measures students' academic self-efficacy, provides subjective data.<sup>23</sup> In our study, although the scores of nursing students from the Academic Self-Efficacy Scale increased in the post-test, no significant difference was found when compared with the pre-test. In addition, although it was determined that nursing students have moderate academic self-efficacy, the high post-test scores of the Childhood Cancer Information Form, which is objective data, is a striking finding. This situation can be interpreted as the fact that students cannot develop an awareness of their perceptions of academic self-efficacy and the concrete situation. A student who thinks that his/her belief in academic self-efficacy is not sufficient indicates that this will negatively affect his/her work to be successful in the exams.<sup>23</sup> It is thought that it is important to establish a real link between the real academic situation of the student and the perception of academic self-efficacy.

A significant difference was determined when the pre-test and post-test mean scores obtained from the information form on childhood cancers of the nursing students in the study were

compared. This finding shows that the Jigsaw technique is effective in teaching childhood cancers. Although the Jigsaw technique does not have a significant effect on students' academic self-efficacy perceptions, it can be said that it is effective in increasing students' knowledge levels. In the study of Renganathan,<sup>27</sup> the Jigsaw technique was used in the child health and adult health course and it was determined that the academic success of nursing students increased. In another study, it is stated that the Jigsaw technique, which is used to increase the knowledge of nursing students about national health programs, significantly increases the knowledge levels of the students.<sup>28</sup> It is emphasized that the Jigsaw technique in nursing education has a positive effect on students' cooperative self-efficacy perceptions, development of communication skills and problem-solving skills, and increases their academic success.<sup>14,29,30</sup>

In the study of Kürtüncü et al.<sup>31</sup> it was determined that the knowledge of nursing students about the approach to children with cancer and their families was insufficient. In our study, it was shown that the Jigsaw technique caused an increase in the knowledge score averages about childhood cancers. In this direction, it has been revealed that the Jigsaw technique can be used in teaching information about childhood cancers.

#### Study Limitations

The most important limitation of the research is that it is a single-group pre-test and post-test design. Therefore, the results of the study cannot be generalized to other groups. Another limitation is that the Jigsaw technique was only applied for a short time on one subject area.

As a result of the study, it was found that the Jigsaw technique was effective in learning about childhood cancers of nursing students. While there was a significant increase in the knowledge levels of nursing students about childhood cancers, there was no significant difference, although there was an increase in their academic self-efficacy perceptions. To develop the academic self-efficacy perceptions of nursing students, it is recommended to carry out reflection studies, where students can connect with their real academic situations and create insight. It is recommended to use the Jigsaw technique as a teaching method in the courses on childhood cancers in nursing education. In future studies, it is recommended to use the Jigsaw technique in different subject

areas of nursing education and control group research designs, but there is a need to plan activities that will increase students' academic self-efficacy perceptions and share the results.

**Ethics Committee Approval:** Ethics committee approval was received for this study from the ethics committee of İzmir Bakırçay University (Date: January 12, 2022, Number: 480).

**Informed Consent:** Written consent was obtained from the participants participating in the study.

**Peer-review:** Externally peer-reviewed.

**Author Contributions:** Concept – Ş.B.Y., H.S.; Design – Ş.B.Y., H.S.; Supervision – Ş.B.Y., H.S.; Resources – Ş.B.Y., H.S., S.B.; Materials – Ş.B.Y., H.S., S.B.; Data Collection and/or Processing – Ş.B.Y., H.S.; Analysis and/or Interpretation – Ş.B.Y., H.S.; Literature Search – Ş.B.Y., H.S., S.B.; Writing Manuscript – Ş.B.Y., H.S., S.B.; Critical Review – Ş.B.Y., H.S., S.B.; Other – Ş.B.Y., H.S., S.B.

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# Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres: Bir Ölçek Geliştirme Çalışması

## Perceived Stress in Risky Pregnancy: A Scale Development Study

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### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmanın amacı riskli gebeliklerde algılanan stresi ölçmede kullanılmaya hazır Neuman Sistemler Modeli'ne temellendirilmiş geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçek geliştirmektir.

**Yöntem:** Bu araştırma metodolojik yöntemle gerçekleştirilmiştir. Araştırma bir hastanede takip edilen ve gebeliğinde risk bulunan 201 gebenin katılımıyla gerçekleştirilmiştir. Verilerin analizi için SPSS V23 programından yararlanılmıştır. Ölçeğin geliştirilmesi için geçerlik analizleri kapsamında; (1) uzman görüşleri ve Davis tekniği ile kapsam geçerliği, (2) Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) katsayısı, Bartlett küresellik testi, açıklayıcı faktör analizi ile yapı geçerliği, (3) Ateşman okunabilirlik formülü (Türkçe için) ile okunabilirlik analizi yapılmıştır. Güvenirlik analizleri kapsamında; (1) Cronbach alfa güvenirlik katsayısı ve madde toplam istatistikleri ile iç tutarlılık, (2) Alt ve üst grupların karşılaştırmaları analizleri yapılmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Analiz sonucunda araştırmacılar tarafından geliştirilen Neuman Sistemler Modeli'ne temellenen Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres Ölçeğinin KMO değeri 0,805 ve Bartlett test istatistiği 2346,678 ( $P < ,001$ ) olarak elde edilmiştir. Üç faktörlü olarak oluşturulan ölçeğin toplam varyansı açıklanma oranı %40,15 olarak tespit edilmiştir. Yapılan analiz sonrası ölçekten 5 madde çıkarılmış ve Cronbach alfa değeri ,87 olarak bulunmuştur. Üç alt boyut ve 34 ifadeden oluşan ölçekte Alfa güvenirlik katsayısı en yüksek ,86 olarak Psikolojik alan alt boyutunda belirlenmiştir. Fizyolojik ve Sosyokültürel/ Gelişimsel/ Spiritüel alan alt boyutlarının Cronbach Alfa güvenirlik katsayısı sırasıyla; ,67 ve ,73 olarak tespit edilmiştir.

**Sonuç:** Neuman Sistemler Modeli'nin yaşamsal alanlarına temellendirilen ölçeğin riskli gebeliklerde algılanan stresi ölçmede geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçüm aracı olduğu saptanmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Neuman sistemler modeli, hemşirelik bakımı, riskli gebelik, riskli gebeliklerde algılanan stres ölçeği, stres

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study aims to develop a valid and reliable scale based on Neuman Systems Model to measure perceived stress in risky pregnancies.

**Methods:** This research was carried out with a methodological method. The study was carried out with the participation of 201 pregnant women who were followed in a hospital and whose pregnancy was at risk. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences V23 program was used for data analysis. Within the scope of validity analysis for the development of the scale, (1) content validity with expert opinions and Davis technique, (2) Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) coefficient, Bartlett sphericity test, construct validity with explanatory factor analysis, (3) readability with Ateşman readability formula (for Turkish) analysis was made. Within the scope of reliability analysis, (1) Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient and item total statistics and internal consistency, (2) Comparisons of lower and upper groups were analyzed.

**Results:** As a result of the analysis, the KMO value of the Perceived Stress in Risky Pregnancies Scale based on the Neuman Systems Model developed by the researchers was obtained as 0.805 and the Bartlett test statistic as 2346,678 ( $P < .001$ ). The total variance disclosure rate of the three-factor scale was determined as 40.15%. After the analysis, 5 items were removed from the scale and the Cronbach alpha value was found to be .87. In the scale consisting of three sub-dimensions and 34 statements, the highest Alpha reliability coefficient was determined as .86 in

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the Psychological domain sub-dimension. Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient of Physiological and Sociocultural/ Developmental/ Spiritual domain sub-dimensions, respectively; It was determined as .67 and .73.

**Conclusion:** The scale based on the vital areas of the Neuman systems model was found to be a valid and reliable measurement tool for measuring perceived stress in risky pregnancies.

**Keywords:** Neuman systems model, nursing care, risky pregnancy, scale of perceived stress in risky pregnancies, stress

## GİRİŞ

Gebelik doğal olduğu kadar fizyolojik, psikolojik, duygusal ve sosyal olarak strese neden olabilecek faktörlerle karşılaşma riskinin yüksek olduğu karmaşık bir süreçtir.<sup>1</sup> Düşük düzeyde stres, gebelerde bilgi arama davranışını artıracığı için olumlu karşılanabilmektedir.<sup>2</sup> Ancak gebelikte sürekli algılanan yüksek stres anne ve çocuk sağlığını tehdit edebilmektedir. Gebelikte algılanan stres fetal sağlığı olumsuz etkilemekte, bu etki yenidoğan, çocukluk ve yetişkinlik döneminde bile insanın fiziksel bilişsel, duygusal ve nörolojimsel sağlığını olumsuz etkilemeye devam etmektedir.<sup>3-7</sup> Gebeliğe eşlik eden riskli ya da yüksek riskli durumlar anne ve fetus sağlığını tehdit ederek var olan diğer yaşamsal stres yükünü ağırlaştırmakta, gebelik sürecini daha da karmaşık bir hale getirmektedir.<sup>4,8</sup>

Riskli gebelik deneyimleyen kadınlar diğerlerine göre kendilerinin ve bebeklerinin sağlık durumuyla ilgili çok daha yoğun stres yaşamaktadır.<sup>1,8,9</sup> Neuman Sistemler Modeli'nde stresi derinlemesine ele alarak insanlarda fizyolojik, psikolojik, gelişimsel, sosyokültürel ve spiritüel olmak üzere beş yaşam alanı olduğunu tüm bireylerin bu alanlarda stres yaşayabileceklerini ve hemşirenin stresi birincil, ikincil, üçüncül önleme ile bakım verebileceğini belirtmiştir.<sup>10,11</sup>

### Kavramsal Çerçeve

Neuman Sistemler Modeli (NSM) stres, stresle başa çıkma ve yaşamsal faktörlerin üzerinde durmakta ve bireyle iş birliğini öne çıkarmaktadır. Modelde bireyin birbiriyle sinerjik etkileşimde olan beş yaşam alanından oluştuğu belirtilmektedir. Fizyolojik alan, beden yapısı ve fonksiyonlarını; psikolojik alan, zihinsel süreçlerle iç ve dış çevrenin karşılıklı etkileşiminden ortaya çıkan etkileri; sosyokültürel alan, sosyal ve kültürel etkilerin birleşimini; gelişimsel alan yaşa bağlı süreç ve faaliyetleri ve spiritüel alan manevi inanç ve etkilerini ifade etmektedir.<sup>10-12</sup> Neuman'a göre bireyler yaşam boyunca bu beş alanda sistem için tehdit olabilecek stres ve stresörlere maruz kalmaktadır. Stres bireyde yeni koşullara uyum gereksinimini artırmaktadır. Neuman'ın temel yapı olarak ifade ettiği ve insanın en merkezinde yer alarak savunma hatlarıyla korunan yapı hayatta kalma faktörleri ya da enerji kaynaklarını temsil etmektedir. Bu yapı stresörlerden dıştan içe doğru esnek savunma hattı, normal savunma hattı ve direnç hatları ile korunmaktadır.<sup>13</sup> Özellikle temel yapıyı en içte koruyan Direnç hatları etkisiz kalırsa enerji tükenmesi ve sonuç olarak organizmada entropi meydana gelmektedir. Bu nedenle hemşirenin, öncelikle bireyi etkileyen stresörleri ve bunların şiddetini saptaması gerekmektedir.<sup>10</sup>

Riskli gebeliklerde stres üzerine pek çok çalışma yapılmıştır<sup>14-16</sup> ve gebelikte stresle ilgili çeşitli ölçüm araçları da geliştirilmiştir.<sup>6,17,18</sup> Bu ölçeklerin riskli gebeliklerde deneyimlenebilecek stres durumlarını değerlendirmede Neuman'ın belirttiği tüm yaşamsal alanlara vurgu yapmadıkları anlaşılmıştır. Oysa riskli gebeliklerde

kapsamlı bir biçimde tüm yaşam alanlarında deneyimlene stres algısının belirlenmesi, sunulacak hemşirelik bakımının kapsamını ve bakımın niteliğini büyük ölçüde etkileyecektir. Bu saptamadan yola çıkarak bu çalışmada Neuman'ın işaret ettiği ve gebenin riskli bir duruma bağlı stres deneyimleme olasılığı olan tüm yaşam alanlarını değerlendirmeye olanak sağlayan bir ölçme aracının geliştirilmesi amaçlanmıştır.

## YÖNTEM

### Araştırmanın Türü

Neuman Sistemler Modeli'ne temellenen Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres Ölçeğini (NSMt-RGASÖ) geliştirmek üzere yapılmış metodolojik bir çalışmadır.

### Araştırmanın Örnekleme

Araştırmada örneklem büyüklüğünün belirlenmesinde NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formunun madde sayısı (39) göz önünde bulundurulmuştur. İlgili literatürde ölçek geliştirme çalışmalarında örneklem büyüklüğünün, deneysel form yer alan ifade sayısının 5-10 katı olması önerilmektedir.<sup>19,20</sup> Bu bilgiden hareketle araştırmanın örneklemini bir üniversite hastanesinin perinatoloji, kadın doğum servisi ve polikliniklerinde riskli gebelik tanısıyla takip edilen 201 gebe oluşturmuştur. Katılımcılar, araştırmaya katılmaya gönüllü olan ve gebeliğinde herhangi bir risk (preterm eylem riski, preeklamsi, gestasyonel diyabetüs mellitus vb...) bulunan ve Türkçe okuma yazma bilen gebelerden oluşmuştur.

### Veri toplama Araçları

Araştırmanın verileri "Gebe Tanıma Formu" ve "NSMt-RGASÖ/ Deneysel Formu" kullanılarak toplanmıştır.

### Gebe Tanıma Formu

Bu form araştırmacılar tarafından oluşturulmuştur ve gebenin yaşı, çalışma durumu, eğitimi, ekonomik durumu, aile tipi, eşinin eğitimi, kaçınıcı gebeliği, gebeliği isteme durumu, önceden riskli gebelik yaşama durumu ve mevcut riskli durum gibi 14 sorudan oluşmuştur.

### Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres Ölçeği Deneysel Formu

NSMt-RGASÖ Deneysel formu araştırmacılar tarafından ilgili literatürden<sup>11,21-24</sup> yararlanılarak geliştirilmiştir. NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formuna ilişkin oluşturulan madde havuzunda NSM'de belirtilen beş yaşam alanına yönelik 45 madde yer almıştır. Bu maddelerden 10'u Fizyolojik alan, 14'ü Psikolojik alan, 10'u Sosyokültürel alan, 5'i Gelişimsel alan ve 6'sı Spiritüel alana aittir. Uzman görüşleri sonrasında NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formunun madde sayısı 39'a düşmüştür. Bu maddelerden 32'si olumsuz ve 7'si (24, 29, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38) olumludur. Olumlu soru köküne sahip 7 madde tersine kodlanarak ölçümde uyum sağlanmaktadır. İfadeler riskli gebelerin algıladığı stres durumuna göre, hiçbir zaman (1), nadiren (2), bazen (3), çoğu zaman (4), her zaman (5) şeklinde puanlanmaktadır.

## Deneysel Form ile Ön Uygulama

Uzmanlardan gelen değerlendirmelerle oluşturulan 39 maddelik NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formu ile 20 gebede pilot uygulama yapılmış, anlaşılması güç olan ifadeler yeniden düzenlenmiştir.

## Verilerin toplanması

Bu çalışmanın verileri 01.03.2020 ve 30.09.2020 tarihleri arasında Orta Karadeniz Bölgesi'nde yer alan bir üniversite hastanesinin perinatoloji, kadın doğum servisi ve polikliniklerinde yürütülmüştür. Veri toplamada "Gebe Tanıma Formu" ve "NSMt-RGASÖ Deneysel Formu" kullanılmıştır. Formların doldurulması katılımcıların yaklaşık 15-20 dakikasını almıştır. Veriler yüz yüze görüşmeler yoluyla toplanmıştır.

## Araştırmanın Etik Yönü

Ethics committee approval was received for this study from the ethics committee of Ondokuz Mayıs University (Date: October 24, 2019, Number: 2019/768)

## İstatistiksel Analiz

Araştırmanın verileri Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Corp., Armonk, NY, ABD) versiyon 23 kullanılarak analiz edilmiştir. Sosyodemografik verilerinin analizinde frekans, ortalama ve standart sapma kullanılmıştır. NSMt-RGASÖ'nün geçerlik ve güvenilirliğini saptamada kullanılan analizlerin tamamı Tablo 1'de özetlenmiştir.

## BULGULAR

### Örneklem Özellikleri

Çalışmaya katılan gebelerin yaş ortalaması 30 (min: 18, max 46), evlilik yılı ortalaması ise 6,2'dir. Gebelerin %30,1'i yükseköğrenim mezun olup %31,3'ü ev dışı bir işte çalışmaktadır Gebelerin %36'sı primipar gebedir ve multipar gebelerin %51,2'si önceki gebeliklerinde de riskli gebelik deneyimlemiştir.

### NSMt-RGASÖ Geçerlilik Analizlerine İlişkin Bulgular

NSMt-RGASÖ'nün geçerliliğinin belirlenmesi amacıyla, kapsam geçerliği, okunabilirlik katsayısı ve faktör analizi yapılmıştır.

NSMt-RGASÖ'nün geçerlik çalışmaları kapsamında ilk önce kapsam geçerliliği çalışmaları yürütülmüştür. Bu doğrultuda 45 ifadenin yer aldığı NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formu alanında uzman 5 öğretim elemanının görüşüne başvurulmuştur, Uzmanlar Davis Tekniğine göre hazırlanan NSMt-RGASÖ'nün deneysel formunda yer alan her bir maddeyi "madde çok uygun," "madde uygun ancak küçük değişiklik gerekli," "maddenin uygun şekilde getirilmesi gerekir" ve "uygun değil" şeklinde değerlendirmişlerdir. Davis

teknisinde uzmanlardan "madde çok uygun" ve "madde uygun ancak küçük değişiklik gerekli" seçeneğini işaretleyen sayısı toplam uzman sayısına bölünmekte ve maddeye ilişkin kapsam geçerlik indeksi (KGİ) elde edilmektedir. KGİ'de ,80 değeri ölçüt olarak kabul edilmektedir.<sup>25</sup> Bu doğrultuda NSMt-RGASÖ'nün deneysel formunda yer alan ve KGİ skoru 0,80'in altında olan 5 madde ölçekten çıkarılmıştır. Yine uzman önerileri doğrultusunda iki madde aynı durumu ölçmesi nedeniyle tek bir madde haline getirilmiştir. Böylece NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formunda yer alan madde sayısı 39 olmuştur. Bu 39 madde yeniden numaralandırılarak örneklem grubuna uygulanacak olan NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formu elde edilmiştir. NSMt-RGASÖ'nün deneysel formunda yer alan maddelerden 32'si olumsuz, 7'si olumlu ifadeden oluşmuştur. Maddelerin birbiriyle uyumunun değerlendirilmesi amacıyla 39 maddeli ölçek için tekrar uzmanlardan görüş istenmiş ve deneysel formdaki tüm maddelerin KGİ değerinin 0,80'in üzerinde olduğu saptanmıştır.

NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formu bu aşamada 20 gebeye pilot olarak uygulanmış ve anlaşılmayan herhangi bir ifade olmadığı belirlenmiştir. Daha sonra NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formunun Okunabilirlik düzeyini belirlemek üzere Ateşman okunabilirlik analizi yapılmış, okunabilirlik katsayısı 81,2 olarak bulunmuştur. Bu sonuca göre NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formu ilköğretim ve daha üzerinde eğitim düzeyine sahip gebelerin rahatlıkla yanıtlayabileceği bir okunabilirlik düzeyine sahiptir.

NSMt-RGASÖ'nün Yapı geçerliliğini belirlemek üzere 201 katılımcıdan elde edilen veriler üzerinden faktör analizi yapmadan önce verilerin uygunluğunu saptamak üzere Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) katsayısı ve Barlett küresellik testi hesaplanmıştır.<sup>26</sup> NSMt-RGAS deneysel formu KMO değeri 0,80 ve Bartlett testine ilişkin ki-kare değerinin ise anlamlı (ki-kare: 2346,68,  $P < ,001$ ) olduğu saptanmıştır. Barlett küresellik testinin sonucu, veri grubunun normallik varsayımını karşıladığını göstermiştir. Örneklem büyüklüğünün değişken sayısının beş ve on katı arasında olması faktör analizinin doğruluğunu artırmaktadır.<sup>20</sup> Bu çalışmada örneklem büyüklüğü (201 katılımcı) değişken sayısının (39 madde) 5,15 katıdır. KMO testi sonuçları ve madde sayısı-katılımcı oranına göre NSMt-RGASÖ'nün faktör analizi için yeterli ve uygun olduğu belirlenmiştir. Bu doğrultuda Açıklayıcı Faktör Analizi yapılmıştır.

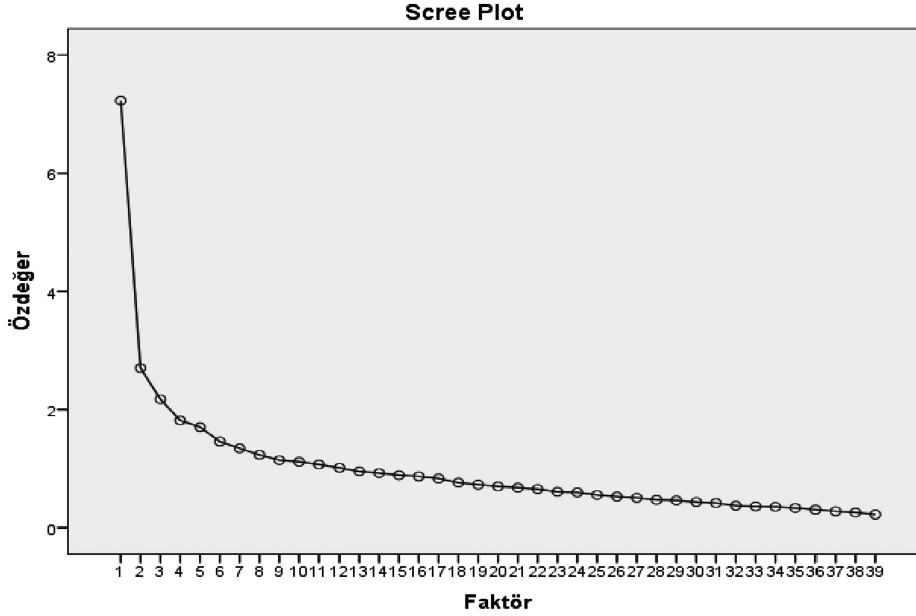
### NSMt-RGASÖ Açıklayıcı Faktör Analizi (AFA)

Faktör analizi ölçekte bulunan maddelere verilen yanıtlar arasında belli bir düzen olup olmadığını belirlemek üzere kullanılan bir yapı geçerliği tekniğidir.<sup>27</sup> Açıklayıcı faktör analizi (AFA) ölçeğin alt boyutlarını ortaya çıkarmak ve değişken kümeleri oluşturmak amacıyla kullanılmaktadır.<sup>28</sup> NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formu verileri üzerinden AFA yapılmış ve daha sonra faktörler altında oluşan yüklenmelerin anlaşılabilirliğini basit ve net bir şekilde ortaya çıkarmak üzere dik döndürme şekillerinden varimaks döndürme uygulanmıştır.<sup>29</sup>

Döndürme işlemi sonrası yapılan ilk faktör analizinde özdeğeri 1'den büyük olan 12 faktör bulunmuştur. Bu faktörler toplam varyansın %61,50'sini açıklamaktadır ancak oluşan bu 12 faktörlü yapı yorumlanması zor olan çok sayıda değişkenden oluşmaktadır. Bu nedenle kavramsal olarak anlamlı faktörlere ulaşmak üzere faktör özdeğerleri eğim grafiği ile "toplam varyansın yüzdesi"ne bakılarak faktör sayısının sınırlanmasına karar verilmiştir. Şekil 1'de görüldüğü üzere üçüncü faktörden sonra eğim önemli derecede kaybolmakta ve faktörler üst üste binmeye başlamaktadır (Şekil 1). Aynı zamanda 12 faktörlü yapıda, 3. faktörden sonraki faktörlerin açıklanan varyansa katkısının %5'ten daha az olduğu saptandığından faktör sayısının 3 faktörle sınırlanmasına karar verilmiştir.

**Tablo 1. Araştırma Verilerinin Değerlendirilmesinde Kullanılan İstatistiksel Yöntemler**

GEÇERLİLİK	Kapsam Geçerliği	Davis Tekniği
	Okunabilirlik Sayısı	Ateşman Okunabilirlik Formülü
	Yapı Geçerliği (Faktör Analizi)	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) katsayısı
		Barlett Küresellik Testi
		Açıklayıcı Faktör Analizi (AFA)
GÜVENİRLİK	İç Tutarlılık	Cronbach Alfa Katsayısı
	Madde Toplam İstatistikleri	Madde silinirse ölçüm (ortalama, varyans, Cronbach Alfa)
		Madde toplam korelasyonu
	Ölçeğin Ayırt Ediciliği	Alt ve üst grupların karşılaştırmaları



Şekil 1. NSMt-RGASÖ faktör-özdeğer çizgi grafiği .

Yapılan üçlü faktör analizinde 0,35'den daha düşük faktör yük değerine sahip maddeler ile binişik maddeler aralarındaki fark 0,10'dan küçük olanlar (7, 22, 29, 33 ve 35. maddeler) ölçekten çıkarılmıştır. Ölçekten her madde çıkarılışında döndürme işlemi tekrarlanmıştır. Bu analiz sonucunda yük değerleri 0,36 ile 0,75 arasında değişen 34 maddeli ve 3 faktörlü NSMt-RGASÖ elde edilmiştir. Faktörler altına dağılan maddeler arasındaki anlam bütünlüğüne bakılarak Neuman Sistemler Modeli'nde tanımlanan yaşam alanlarına göre faktörler isimlendirilmiştir. Bu doğrultuda Faktör 1 (9 madde); Fizyolojik Yaşam Alanında Algılanan Strese yönelik olup toplam varyansın %23,23'ünü açıklamaktadır. Faktör 2 (12 madde); Psikolojik Yaşam Alanında Algılanan Strese yönelik olup toplam varyansın %9,27'sini Faktör 3 (13 madde) ise Sosyokültürel/ Gelişimsel/ Spiritüel Yaşam Alanında Algılanan Strese yönelik olup toplam varyansın %7,65'ini açıklamaktadır. Ölçeğin toplam varyansı açıklanma oranı %40,15 olarak belirlenmiştir (Tablo 2).

#### NSMt-RGASÖ'nin Güvenirlik Analizine İlişkin Bulgular

Bu araştırmada NSMt-RGASÖ'nün güvenirliliğinin belirlenmesinde madde toplam puan istatistikleri, Cronbach Alfa Değeri ve ölçeğin ayırt ediciliği için alt ve üst %27'lik grupların karşılaştırılması analizleri kullanılmıştır.

Madde toplam puan korelasyonu, madde ile ölçekteki diğer maddeler arasındaki ilişkiyi göstermektedir. Madde toplam puan korelasyonu değerlerinin düşük çıkması maddenin ölçeğe katkısının düşük olduğunu gösterirken, genelde ,30 kabul edilebilir alt sınır olarak kabul edilmektedir.<sup>30</sup> Ancak madde toplam puan korelasyonunun ,30'un altında olduğu durumlarda araştırmacılar o maddenin ölçekten çıkartılmasının Cronbach alfa güvenirlilik katsayısına olan etkisine bakarak ölçekte kalmasına ya da çıkartılmasına karar verebilmektedir. Tablo 3'de görüldüğü gibi NSMt-RGASÖ'de madde-toplam puan korelasyonu ,30'un altında olan 11 madde bulunmuştur. Yapılan istatistiklerde, bu maddelerin ölçekten çıkarılmasının ölçeğin Cronbach alfa güvenirlilik katsayısında önemli bir değişikliğe neden olmadığı saptanmıştır. Güvenirliliği değiştirmeyen bu maddelerin ölçekte kalmasına karar verilmiştir.

NSMt-RGASÖ'nün iç tutarlılığını saptamak için Cronbach Alfa katsayısı hesaplanmıştır. NSMt-RGASÖ ve alt boyutlarına ilişkin Cronbach alfa sonuçları Tablo 4'de gösterilmiştir. Cronbach alfa değeri 0 ve 1 arasında ifade edilmektedir, bu değer 1'e yakın olması güvenirliliğin yüksek olduğunu göstermektedir. Tablo 4'de görüldüğü üzere NSMt-RGASÖ'nün Cronbach Alfa değeri ölçeğin geneli için 0,87 olarak bulunmuştur. Cronbach Alfa katsayıları NSMt-RGASÖ'nün fizyolojik alt boyutunda 0,67; psikolojik alt boyutunda 0,86; Sosyokültürel/Gelişimsel/ Spiritüel alt boyutunda 0,73 olarak bulunmuştur. Bu sonuçlar ölçek fizyolojik alt boyutunun oldukça güvenilir, diğer alt boyutlar ve ölçek genelini ise yüksek derecede güvenilir olduğunu göstermektedir.

NSMt-RGASÖ'nün ayırt ediciliğini ölçmek üzere üst ve alt %27'lik grupları karşılaştırılmış ve sonuçlar Tablo 5'te verilmiştir.

Tablo 5'te görüldüğü üzere her 3 alt boyutta alt ve üst %27'lik grupların karşılaştırmaları yapılmış ve gruplar arasındaki farkın istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu tespit edilmiştir ( $P < ,001$ ). Bu sonuç NSMt-RGASÖ'nün alt boyutları ölçekten yüksek ve düşük puan alan grupları ayırt etme gücüne sahip olduğu, dolayısıyla ölçek alt boyutlarında bulunan ifadelerin ayırt etmede güvenilir olduğunu göstermektedir.

#### Nihai Ölçeğin Oluşturulması

Yapılan tüm analizler sonucunda, çalışmanın başında oluşturulan 45 maddelik deneysel formda bulunan maddelerden 34 tanesinin (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39), 3 alt boyutta NSMt-RGASÖ'nün 1- fizyolojik yaşam alanı (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10. ifadeler), 2- psikolojik yaşam alanı (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23. ifadeler) ve 3- sosyokültürel/gelişimsel/ spiritüel yaşam alanını (24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39. ifadeler) oluşturduğu, geçerlik ve güvenirlilik şartlarını sağladığı ve bu maddelerin nihai ölçekte yer alabilir nitelikte olduğu saptanmıştır.

Geçerlilik ve güvenirlilik şartlarını sağlayan maddeler yeniden numaralandırılarak oluşturulan 5'li likert tipindeki nihai NSMt-RGASÖ'de 22, 30, 31, 32 ve 33. maddeler tersine kodlanarak ölçümde uyum sağlanmaktadır. NSMt-RGASÖ'den en düşük 34

Tablo 2. NSMt-RGASÖ Üç Faktörlü Yapısı, Maddeleri, Açıklanan Varyans ve Faktör Yükleri

	Faktör ve İfadeler	Açıklanan Varyans	Faktör Yükü
	<b>Faktör:1 Fizyolojik Yaşam Alanında Algılanan Stres</b>	%23,23	
1	Kalp çarpıntısı, göğsümde bir sıkışma ya da nefes darlığı hissediyorum		,53
2	Cildimde kaşıntı ve kızarıklıklar oluyor		,43
3	Uykuya dalmakta ya da deliksiz uyumakta güçlük yaşıyorum		,55
4	Sebepsiz bir şekilde yorgun hissediyorum		,75
5	Vücudumu sıcak basıyor (ellerim terliyor, ağzım kuruyor ...)		,67
6	Kaslarımı gerilmiş ya da ağrılı hissediyorum		,60
8	Mide ve/veya barsak sorunları yaşıyorum (bulantı, ishal, kabızlık vb..)		,38
9	Başım ağrıyor		,41
10	Gereğinden fazla ya da az yiyorum.		,37
	<b>Faktör:2 Psikolojik Yaşam Alanında Algılanan Stres</b>	%9,27	
11	Huzursuz, tedirgin ve endişeli hissediyorum.		,65
12	Kendimi suçlu hissediyorum.		,56
13	Kendimi öfkeli hissediyorum		,53
14	Sağlığımın olumsuz etkilemesinden korkuyorum		,61
15	Bebeğimin sağlığının olumsuz etkilemesinden korkuyorum		,60
16	Hastanede yatma ihtimali beni korkutuyor		,64
17	Kullandığım ilaçlar nedeniyle stres yaşıyorum		,40
18	Aktivite kısıtlaması nedeniyle stres yaşıyorum		,69
19	Erken doğum yapmaktan korkuyorum		,62
20	Bebeğimle sağlıklı bir bağ kuramamaktan korkuyorum		,70
21	Cinsel yaşamımdaki değişiklikler nedeniyle endişeliyim.		,74
23	Erken doğum yaparsam, bebeğime iyi bakamamaktan ve emzirmemekten korkuyorum		,69
	<b>Faktör:3 Sosyokültürel/ Gelişimsel/ Spiritüel Yaşam Alanında Algılanan Stres</b>	%7,65	
24	Eşim ve ailem beni destekliyor		,38
25	Ev içi rollerimi (annelik, evin bakımı vb.) yerine getiremiyorum		,48
26	Eşimle duygularımı paylaşmakta güçlük yaşıyorum		,55
27	Çevremdeki insanlar beni olumsuz etkiliyor		,55
28	Başkaları beni anlamadığı için duygu ve düşüncelerimi paylaşmakta güçlük yaşıyorum		,60
30	Gelir durumumla ilgili endişeliyim		,56
31	Bazı şeyleri hatırlamakta güçlük yaşıyorum		,46
32	Yeni şeyleri öğrenmekte güçlük çekiyorum		,52
34	Gerektiğinde çevremden kolayca yardım (çocuk bakımı, yemek, ulaşım vb.) isteyebilirim		,37
36	Bu sürecin sağlıklı bir şekilde sonuçlanacağına inanıyorum.		,54
37	Sorunların üstesinden gelecek kadar manevi gücüm olduğuna inanıyorum		,40
38	İnancım sayesinde huzurlu kalabiliyorum		,37
39	Kendimi umutsuz hissediyorum		,49
	<b>Açıklanan Toplam Varyans</b>	<b>%40,15</b>	

NSMt-RGASÖ, geliştirilen Neuman Sistemler Modeli'ne temellenen Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres Ölçeği.

ve en yüksek 170 puan alınabilmektedir. NSMt-RGASÖ'de bulunan alt boyutlardaki puan toplamı o yaşam alanında stres puanını oluştururken, tüm maddelerinin puan toplamı ise toplam ölçek puanını oluşturmaktadır. Ölçek genelinden ve alt boyutlardan alınan puanın yüksek olması, ilgili yaşam alanında ve genel anlamda algılanan stresin yüksek olduğunu göstermektedir.

## TARTIŞMA

Literatürde gebelikte ve riskli gebeliklerde stresi ölçen bazı araçlar bulunmaktadır.<sup>17,18</sup> Ancak ulusal ya da uluslararası literatürde riskli

gebeliklerde algılanan stresi ölçen Neuman'ın Sistemler Modeli'ne temellendirilmiş herhangi bir ölçüm aracına ulaşılamamıştır. Bu çalışma gebeliğinde risk bulunan gebelerde kullanılmak üzere Neuman Sistemler Modeli'nde belirtilen beş yaşam alanında, fizyolojik, psikolojik, sosyokültürel, gelişimsel ve spiritüel stres algısını ölçebilecek geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçek oluşturmak üzere yapılmıştır. Çalışma sonucunda "Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres Ölçeği- NSMt-RGASÖ'nün" geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçek olduğu saptanmıştır.

**Tablo 3. NSMt-RGASÖ Madde ve Madde-Toplam Puan İstatistikleri**

Madde numarası	Madde silinirse ölçüm (ortalama)	Madde silinirse ölçüm (varyans)	Madde toplam puan korelasyonu	Madde silinirse Cronbach Alfa
1	82,80	364,14	,29	,84
2	83,15	366,20	,23	,84
3	82,38	362,35	,25	,84
4	81,86	355,82	,46	,83
5	82,26	353,17	,46	,83
6	82,53	359,44	,33	,84
8	82,43	364,82	,22	,84
9	82,65	364,63	,27	,84
10	82,59	361,84	,32	,84
11	81,94	345,54	,56	,83
12	83,26	355,39	,49	,83
13	82,99	353,48	,47	,83
14	82,52	347,75	,48	,83
15	81,01	352,72	,47	,83
16	82,18	346,99	,47	,83
17	83,40	365,18	,21	,84
18	82,73	347,28	,52	,83
19	81,80	348,23	,46	,83
20	82,58	343,09	,53	,83
21	83,25	345,75	,61	,83
23	82,38	339,48	,58	,83
24	83,61	371,05	,16	,84
25	82,76	355,13	,40	,83
26	83,20	357,93	,38	,84
27	82,86	357,39	,39	,83
28	82,60	347,10	,53	,83
30	82,92	351,06	,48	,83
31	82,58	361,55	,29	,84
32	83,25	361,99	,35	,84
34	80,93	378,39	,04	,85
36	81,01	388,64	,25	,85
37	80,51	359,75	,08	,86
38	83,27	380,49	,08	,85
39	82,89	357,28	,44	,83

NSMt-RGASÖ, geliştirilen Neuman Sistemler Modeli'ne temellenen Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres Ölçeği.

Ölçme aracı geliştirilmesi sürecinde geçerlilik ve güvenilirlik kriterlerinin sağlanması gerekmektedir.<sup>31</sup> Ölçek geçerlilik analizlerinde kapsam geçerliği ölçeğin, ölçülmek istenen konuya uygunluğu ve belirlenen amaçları ölçebilecek kapsamda olması olarak ifade edilmektedir.<sup>28</sup> Kapsam geçerliğinde Davis tekniği yaygın olarak kullanılmaktadır. Davis tekniği ile kapsam analizi uzmanların ölçek deneysel formundaki her bir maddenin uygunluğuna ilişkin değerlendirmeleri üzerinden yapılmaktadır.<sup>25,32</sup> NSMt-RGASÖ'nün kapsam geçerliliğini belirlemek üzere Davis tekniği kullanılmıştır.<sup>32,33</sup> Davis tekniğinde maddeye ilişkin kapsam geçerlik indeksi (KGİ) madde çok uygun, madde uygun ancak küçük değişiklik gerekli seçeneğini işaretleyen uzman sayısının, toplam uzman sayısına bölünmesiyle elde edilmekte, 0,80 değeri ölçüt olarak kabul edilmektedir.<sup>25</sup> Tekniğe uygun uzman değerlendirmeleri sonrası NSMt-RGASÖ'den 0,80'nin altında değer alan maddeler çıkarılmış, düzeltme ya da birleştirme önerisi gelen maddeler ise revize edilmiştir. Kapsam geçerliği sonrası 45 maddeden oluşan madde havuzundan 39 maddelik deneysel ölçek oluşturulmuştur.

Oluşturulan ölçüm araçlarının kolay anlaşılır nitelikte olması ölçüm aracının geçerliliğini etkilemektedir. NSMt-RGASÖ'nün anlaşılabilirliğini değerlendirmek üzere deneysel formun ön uygulaması yapılmış, anlaşılmayan ifadeler düzeltilmiştir. Ateşman tarafından 1997 yılında Türkçe okunabilirlik formülü tanımlanmıştır. Bu formülde okunabilirlik 1-100 puan arasında değişmektedir. Okunabilirlik Puan 90 ile 100 arasında ise "çok kolay," 70 ile 89 arasında "kolay," 50 ile 69 arasında "orta zorlukta," 30 ile 49 arasında "zor" ve 1 ile 29 arasında ise "çok zor" olarak kabul edilmektedir.<sup>34</sup> NSMt-RGASÖ'nün Türkçe okunabilirlik indeksi 81,2 olarak saptanmıştır. Bu durumda ölçek iyi düzeyde okunabilirliğe sahip olup, ilköğretim ve üzeri mezuniyeti bulunan gebelerde rahatlıkla uygulanabilecektir.

NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formu ile toplanan veriler üzerinden faktör analizi yapılarak ölçeğin yapı geçerliğine bakılmıştır. Faktör analizi ölçekte bulunan maddelere verilen yanıtlar arasında belli bir düzen olup olmadığını belirlemek üzere kullanılan bir yapı geçerliği tekniğidir. Faktör analizi sonucunda ölçek maddeleri birkaç başlık altında toplanabilmektedir. Analiz ifadelerinin çıkartılması ya da eklenmesiyle tekrarlanmakta ve bu süreç ölçülecek alanı ölçmede yeterli sayıda madde içeren bir yapıya ulaşıncaya kadar devam ettirilmektedir.<sup>27</sup> Faktör analizi için örneklem büyüklüğünün madde sayısının 5-10 katı olması önerilmektedir.<sup>20</sup> Bu çalışmada örneklem büyüklüğü (201 katılımcı) değişken sayısının (39 madde) 5,15 katı olup örneklem büyüklüğü NSMt-RGASÖ deneysel formu yolu ile elde edilen veriler üzerinden faktör analizi yapılmasına uygundur. Yapılan farklı çalışmalar incelendiğinde bu çalışmaya benzer şekilde örneklem sayısının ölçek madde sayılarının 5-10 katı aralığında olduğu görülmektedir.<sup>17,35</sup> Ancak yine de faktör analizinden önce verilerin analize

**Tablo 4. NSMt-RGASÖ ve Alt Boyutları Cronbach Alfa Katsayıları**

Ölçek ve alt boyutları	Madde sayısı	Alınabilecek min ve mak.		Alınan Ortalama Puan		Cronbach Alfa
		Puan		$\bar{x} \pm SS$	Min-Max	
Fizyolojik	9	9-45		21 ± 4,48	22,29-31,84	,67
Psikolojik	12	12-60		32 ± 3,33	29,47-32,79	,85
Sosyokültürel/Gelişimsel/ Spiritüel	13	13-70		27 ± 5,65	22,12-30,44	,73
NSMt-RGASÖ	34	34-170		106 ± 11,02	74,66-126,47	,87

NSMt-RGASÖ: geliştirilen Neuman Sistemler Modeli'ne temellenen Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres Ölçeği.

**Tablo 5. NSMt-RGSAÖ'nün Alt ve Üst %27'lik Gruplarının Karşılaştırılması**

		n	Ortalama	S.Sapma	Ortanca	Minimum	Maksimum	Test İst.	P
Fizyolojik	Alt	55	1,697	0,265	1,667	1,000	2,110	Z=-9,057	< ,001
	Üst	55	3,350	0,395	3,222	2,780	4,220		
Psikolojik	Alt	55	1,477	0,264	1,500	1,000	1,830	Z=-9,053	< ,001
	Üst	55	3,679	0,556	3,500	2,920	4,670		
Sosyokültürel/ Gelişimsel/ Spiritüel	Alt	55	1,274	0,180	1,231	1,000	1,540	Z=-9,059	< ,001
	Üst	55	2,758	0,388	2,615	2,310	3,920		

NSMt-RGASÖ: geliştirilen Neuman Sistemler Modeli'ne temellenen Riskli Gebeliklerde Algılanan Stres Ölçeği.  
Z: Mann-Whitney U-test.

uygunluğunu test etmek amacıyla örneklem yeterliliğine yönelik bilgi veren Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) katsayısı hesaplanması ve Barlett Küresellik Testinin uygulanması önerilmektedir. KMO katsayısı 0 ile 1 değeri arasında değişmektedir. Bu değer örneklem yeterliliği ölçüsünün 0,90 ile 1,00 arasında mükemmel, 0,80 ile 0,89 arasında çok iyi, 0,70 ile 0,79 arasında iyi, 0,60 ile 0,69 arasında orta, 0,50 ile 0,59 arasında zayıf ve 0,50'den küçük olduğunda kabul edilemez olduğu kabul edilmektedir.<sup>19</sup> Faktör analizinin yapılabilmesi için KMO değerinin 0,5'ten büyük olması gerekmektedir.<sup>36</sup> Yapılan analizde NSMt-RGSAÖ deneysel formunun KMO değeri 0,805 olarak bulunmuştur bu değer faktör analizi için uygunluğunun çok iyi olduğunu göstermektedir. Öte taraftan Barlett testinin de istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ( $P < ,05$ ) olması gerekmektedir.<sup>37</sup> NSMt-RGSAÖ'nün Bartlett test istatistiği 2346,68 ( $P < ,001$ ) olup istatistiksel olarak anlamlıdır.

NSMt-RGSAÖ'nün faktör yapısı belirlenirken toplam varyans yüzdesi kriteri de dikkate alınmıştır. Literatüre bakıldığında açıklayıcı varyans oranının %40 ile %60 arasında olması gerektiğine işaret edilmektedir.<sup>38,39</sup> NSMt-RGSAÖ'nün toplam varyansı %40,15 olarak belirlenmiştir. Farklı bir çalışmada da bu çalışmaya benzer şekilde çalıştıkları ölçeğin toplam varyansın %43,56'sını açıkladığı tespit edilmiştir.<sup>35</sup> Dolayısıyla NSMt-RGSAÖ, bir ölçek için ideal olarak kabul edilen varyans değerine sahip olduğu görülmektedir.

Faktör yükü maddenin bulunduğu faktör ile toplam puan arasındaki korelasyon katsayısı olarak tanımlanmaktadır. Faktör yüklerinin 0,30-0,40 arasında olması faktör yapısını açıklamak için yeterli olarak kabul edilmektedir.<sup>19,40</sup> NSMt-RGSAÖ'de maddelerin faktör yük değerleri 0,37 ile 0,75 arasında olup, kritik faktör yükü değeri olan 0,30'un üzerindedir. Benzer şekilde Külçür ve Sis (2018) tarafından geliştirilen farklı bir ölçekte de bu çalışmaya benzer şekilde faktör yüklerinin ,36-79 aralığında olduğu görülmektedir.<sup>35</sup> Yunanistan'da yürütülen bir çalışmada da faktör yüklerinin ,36-87 aralığında olduğu belirlenmiştir.<sup>17</sup> Bu sonuçlara göre NSMt-RGASÖ'nün maddelerine verilen yanıtlar arasında belli bir uyum ve düzenin olduğu ortaya çıkmış olup yapı geçerliliğinin sağlandığı anlaşılmaktadır.

Ölçeklerde iç tutarlılığı belirlemek amacıyla madde-toplam puan korelasyonu kullanılmaktadır. Ölçeklerde madde-toplam korelasyonu ,20 ve üzerinde olan maddelerin ölçeğe dahil edilebileceği kabul edilmektedir.<sup>40</sup> NSMt-RGASÖ'de madde-toplam puan korelasyonu ,20'nin altında olan 7., 22., 29. 33 ve 35. maddelerin ölçekten çıkarılmasıyla ölçekte bu değerlerin altında olan madde kalmamış, ölçeğin güvenilirliği artırılmıştır. Atasever ve Sis'in çalışmasında da madde-toplam puan korelasyonlarının ,36 ile ,56 arasında değiştiği görülmektedir.<sup>35</sup>

İç tutarlılık, ölçeğin tüm alt grupların aynı yapıyı ele aldığını ve ölçtüğünü göstermektedir. Cronbach's  $\alpha$ , iç tutarlılığı belirlemek, maddeler arasındaki uyumu değerlendirmek için yaygın olarak kullanılmaktadır.<sup>41</sup> Ölçeğin Cronbach  $\alpha$  güvenilirlik katsayısının yüksek olması, ölçekteki maddelerin birbiriyle uyumunu ve ölçeğin aynı özelliği ölçen maddelerden oluştuğunu göstermektedir. Ölçeğin Cronbach's  $\alpha$  değeri 1,00-80 aralıdaysa *güvenirliliği yüksek*, ,60-79 aralıdaysa *oldukça güvenilir* ve ,40-59 aralıdaysa *düşük güvenirliliğe* sahip demektir.<sup>19,42</sup> NSMt-RGSAÖ'nün güvenilirlik analizi kapsamında öncelikle iç tutarlık analizleri yapılmış, ölçek genelinin ,86 Cronbach's  $\alpha$  katsayısına sahip olduğu saptanmıştır. Literatürde geçerliliği ve güvenilirliği göstermiş farklı ölçüm araçlarının Cronbach's  $\alpha$  değerlerine bakıldığında bu çalışma sonuçlarıyla uyumluluk gösterdiği görülmektedir. Atasver ve Sis tarafından geliştirilen ölçeğin Cronbach's  $\alpha$  katsayısı ,70 olarak,<sup>35</sup> Gourunti ve arkadaşlarının çalışmasında ,85 olarak<sup>17</sup> ve Caparros- Gonzalez ve arkadaşlarının çalışmasında ,74 olarak<sup>18</sup> belirlenmiştir. Bu sonuca göre NSMt-RGSAÖ güvenilirliği oldukça yüksek bir ölçektir. Aynı yorum ölçeğin Psikolojik yaşama alanı alt grubu (Cronbach's  $\alpha$ : ,85) içinde yapılabilir. Ölçeğin fizyolojik ve Sosyokültürel/Gelişimsel/Spiritüel yaşam alanları (Sırasıyla Cronbach  $\alpha$ : ,67 ve ,75) için ise bu değerlendirme oldukça güvenilir şeklindedir.

#### Araştırmanın Sınırlılıkları

Bu çalışmada bazı sınırlılıklar bulunmaktadır. Bu sınırlılıklar, araştırmanın tek bir hastanede yapılmış olması, homojenitenin sağlanması için yalnız riskli gebeliği olan kadınlarla yürütülmüş olmasıdır. Ölçeğin farklı popülasyonlar için uygunluğu araştırılmalıdır.

Sonuç olarak, hemşirelik bakımı ve felsefesi hemşirelik kuramlarını temel aldığı için, hemşirelik kuramlarına dayalı olarak geliştirilen ölçeklerin kullanımının artırılması önemlidir. Bu çalışmada riskli gebeliklerde beş yaşam alanında algılanan stres değerlendirilmek için geliştirilen NSMt-RGASÖ'nün, güvenilir ve geçerli bir ölçme aracı olduğu belirlenmiştir. NSMt-RGASÖ riskli gebelik tanısı alan tüm gebelerde, gebeliğin riskli olduğunu öğrendikleri dönemden itibaren kullanılabilir özelliktedir. Ölçeğin primipar ya da multipar gebelerden riskli gebelik tanısı olanlarda rutin olarak kullanılması gebelerin algıladığı stresin belirlenmesi ile gerekli önlemlerin alınmasında hemşirelere ve diğer sağlık çalışanlarına yol gösterici olacaktır. Ayrıca farklı kültür ve popülasyonlarda uygulanması bu alandaki bilgi bütününe katkı sağlayacak, bu alandaki değişiklik ve iyileşmeleri karşılaştırmalı olarak izleyebilme olanağı sunacaktır.

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# Analysis of Cesarean Section Rates Using the Robson Classification System in a Training and Research Hospital in Turkey

## Türkiye'deki Bir Üniversite Hastanesinde Robson Sınıflandırılması Sistemini Kullanarak Sezeryan Oranlarının Analizi

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** In our study, we aimed to evaluate cesarean section rates, causes, and changes over the years in an education and research hospital in eastern Turkey using the Robson 10-Group Classification System.

**Methods:** A retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted that included all women who gave birth in a training and research hospital in eastern Turkey between January 2018 and December 2022. Digital data of all deliveries were extracted from the hospital information system, and all groups were compared using the obstetric parameters in the Robson 10-Group Classification System.

**Results:** During a total of 5 years, 4265 (51.47%) of 8287 pregnant women who applied to the hospital for delivery were delivered by cesarean section. Most of the pregnant women admitted to the hospital are multiparous (group 3+group 4=35.9%). Cesarean section was performed in 99.88% of the pregnant women who had a previous cesarean section (group 5). Women in groups 1, 2, and 5 are the largest contributors to the overall cesarean section rate in our hospital.

**Conclusions:** In our study, cesarean section rates should be reduced in women in the first, second, and fifth groups. In this context, physicians should increase vaginal deliveries after cesarean section and avoid unnecessary labor inductions. In terms of midwives and nurses, education and training should be planned and implemented for pregnant women/couples within the scope of prenatal care services consultancy service. A pregnant education program should be established in which the advantages and disadvantages of cesarean and vaginal delivery are explained.

**Keywords:** Cesarean section, classification of cesarean section, Robson 10-Group Classification System, pregnancy, delivery

### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Çalışmamızın amacı, Türkiye'nin doğusundaki bir eğitim araştırma hastanesinde, sezaryen ile doğum (SD) oranlarını, nedenlerini ve yıllar içindeki değişimlerini Robson On Grup Sınıflandırma Sistemi (ROGSS) kullanarak değerlendirmektir.

**Yöntemler:** Ocak 2018 ile Aralık 2022 yılları arasında Türkiye'nin doğusunda bir eğitim araştırma hastanesinde doğum yapan tüm kadınları kapsayan retrospektif kesitsel bir çalışma yapıldı. Tüm doğumların dijital verileri, hastane bilgi sisteminde çıkarılarak Robson On Gruplu Sınıflandırma Sistemindeki obstetrik parametreler kullanılarak bütün gruplar karşılaştırılarak incelendi.

**Bulgular:** Toplam 5 yıllık süre zarfında hastaneye doğum için başvuran 8287 gebeden 4265 tanesi (%51,4) sezaryen yoluyla doğurtulmuştur. Hastaneye başvuran gebelerin büyük bir bölümü multipar (Grup 3+Grup 4=%35,9) olarak başvurmuştur. Daha önce sezaryen olmuş gebelerin (Grup 5) %99,8'ine sezaryen yapılmıştır. Grup 1, 2 ve 5'teki kadınlar, hastanemizdeki genel SD oranına en büyük katkı sağlayan gruplardır. Nullipar makat gelişlerde (grup 6) %100 ve multipar makat

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gelişlerde (Grup 7) %95,5'lik sezaryen oranı izlenmiştir. Çoğul gebelik nedeniyle kabul edilen gebelerin oranı (grup 8) %0,9 ve sezaryen oranı ise %94,9 olarak bulunmuştur.

**Sonuç:** Çalışmamızda hedef grup olarak tespit edilen; Grup 1, 2 ve 5'teki kadınlar için sezaryen oranlarının azaltılması gerekmektedir. Sezaryen oranlarının azaltılması için gebelerin doğum öncesi eğitim almaları, SD sonrası vajinal doğumun artırılması, gereksiz doğum indüksiyonlarından yapılmaması, tüp ligasyonu gerekçesiyle isteğe bağlı sezaryenden kaçınılması gerekmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Sezaryen, sezaryen sınıflandırması, Robson On Gruplu Sınıflandırma Sistemi, gebelik, doğum.

## INTRODUCTION

Cesarean section (CS) is defined as the delivery of the fetus by making an abdominal and uterine incision. However, it is recommended to be done in cases where there is a life risk that may occur during vaginal delivery (for the mother or baby).<sup>1</sup> Although delivery with CS has been increasing in many countries in recent years, the reasons that trigger this surgical procedure are not fully understood. World Health Organization (WHO) in 1985 reported that the ideal CS rate should be 10%-15%. Unfortunately, these increasing rates of CS have become an important public health problem for society in recent years. It has been shown that cesarean procedures performed without a clinical justification do not reduce maternal or infant mortality rates, although they are performed at a rate greater than 10%-15%.<sup>2</sup>

When we look at the Turkey Demographic Health Survey (TDHS) 2018 data, in Turkey, the rate of CS in all births is 52%. It can be seen in Figure 1 that CS births have increased significantly in Turkey. This rate of change is quite striking. The CS rate, which was 7% in 1993, increased to 52% in 2018. While cesarean delivery was 68% in private hospitals, it was 41% in public hospitals. In addition, according to the results of the research, 83% of the deliveries were performed by doctors, 8% by midwives, and 8% by health professionals such as nurses.<sup>3</sup> Many different systems have been developed in order to better understand the reasons that trigger this increase in CS rates and to calculate and compare CS rates between different countries. The most important of these is the 10-group Classification system (Robson Classification), which is recommended by the WHO to the whole world. Thanks to this system, it is possible to define all pregnant women who applied to the hospital for delivery, to define obstetrically related groups prospectively, and to investigate the differences in CS rates among these relatively homogenized groups of women.<sup>4</sup> In our country, the "Robson 10-Group Classification System" (RTGCS) has been used in obstetrics clinics since May 2012 in order to investigate

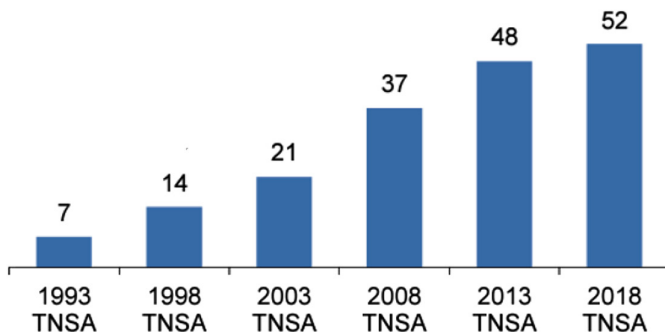
the rapidly increasing rates of CS and to set a standard in birth statistics throughout the country.<sup>5</sup> According to the Robson classification system, in a comprehensive study conducted in our country, it was found that the overall rate of CS in Turkey is 51.2%, and it is CS in public (39.7%), private (70.6%), and tertiary centers (70.3%).<sup>6</sup> In April 2015, WHO recommended that RTGCS be used as a global standard for monitoring and comparing cesarean delivery rates across hospitals.<sup>7</sup> It is also one of the main targets proposed by WHO to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality by 2030. One of the recommended ways to achieve this goal is to avoid unnecessary CSs.<sup>8</sup> One of the reasons for unnecessary CS is the fear of childbirth in pregnant women who will give birth for the first time. It is known that approximately 10% of pregnant women experience severe clinical fear of childbirth.<sup>9</sup> It is also known that pregnant women who are afraid avoid normal birth and want to turn to CS.<sup>10</sup> Pregnant women need training to cope with the prenatal birth process and to develop their skills related to baby care, puerperium, and parenting after birth. It has been reported that prenatal education interventions cause a decrease in CS rates.<sup>11</sup> In this context, it is obvious that it is vital to identify the groups with increased CS rates and take measures to prevent unnecessary CS rates.

In this study, we aimed to identify the target groups with increased CS rates by analyzing the change in CS rates by groups over the years by using Robson classification for deliveries that occurred in a tertiary education and research hospital.

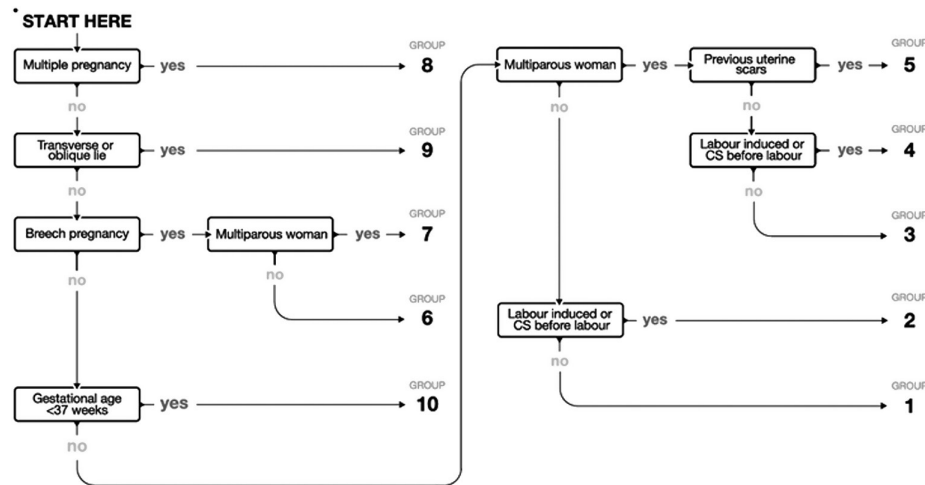
## METHODS

Within the University, human research has been approved by the health and sports sciences Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University Ethics Committee (Date: January 11, 2023, approval number: 2022/12-10). Our study was planned and carried out in line with the recommendations of the 1964 Helsinki Declaration. Since there was a retrospective study and no contact with the patients during our study, no personal information was collected and a consent form was not obtained.

It was conducted as a cross-sectional retrospective study on deliveries from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2022, in our Training and Research Hospital. The data were obtained retrospectively from the hospital's electronic information system and from the birth records of the women who gave birth in this period. Hospital deliveries are managed from the 28th week and pregnant women < 28 weeks are referred to the reference hospital for advanced neonatal unit support when necessary. The study population included women who gave birth to live infants or a live-born infant weighing at least 500 grams after at least 24 weeks of gestation during the study period. As an exclusion criterion, it was determined that women who had given birth in another hospital despite having had their follow-up in our hospital.



**Figure 1.** Cesarean section percentages by years in Turkey.



**Figure 2.** Flow chart for the system of women in the Robson Classification.

### Data Collection Tools

During our study, all women who gave birth at 24 weeks of gestation or longer were classified (by RTGCS) using the flowchart in Figure 2 to categorize them.<sup>12</sup> Table 1 shows a list of Robson groups that included each pregnant woman. For statistical analysis, in the data processing, besides Statistical Package for the Social Sciences 25.0 program, MS Excel Professional Plus (2019) programs were used. Analyzed data were given as n (%) and 95% confidence interval.

### RESULTS

The deliveries occurring in our hospital from 2018 to 2022 were classified according to Robson criteria, and all 8287 deliveries were included in the study. During the 5-year period included in the study; 4265 (51.4%) of these women gave birth with CS. There are fluctuations in hospital CS rates over the years. The CS rate, which was 53.5% in 2018, increased to 54.6% in 2022. The CS

rates by year and the CS contribution rates of each Robson group over the years are shown in Table 2. All women were classified according to RTGCS over the 5-year period as seen in Table 1. Trends in the proportions of women in 10 groups over time and the CS ratio per group over time are shown in Table 2. When column 4 is examined in Table 2 and the average of the 5-year data in our study population is taken, groups 1, 3, and 5 were the largest groups in terms of the number of pregnant women (19.8%, 25.8%, and 30.6%, respectively) and constituted 76.3% of the total pregnant women. When column 6 is examined, groups 5, 1, and 2 contributed the most to the overall CS ratio (30.6%, 8.5%, and 3.3% of all cases, respectively) and contributed 42.4% to the total CS (51.4%). groups 1+2 size (nullipara,  $\geq 37$ , single cephalic) was 28.2%, lower than Robson's reference range (35%–42%). Also, the group 1/group 2 ratio is 2.3, a higher ratio than the 2 : 1 recommended by the Robson guideline. This result shows that we have sufficiently induced nulliparous pregnant women  $\geq 37$  weeks. Cesarean section rate for group 1, when column 5 in Table 2 is examined, values below 10% can be reached according to Robson (Table 3). In the current study, this value was found to be as high as 43.1%. When we look at group 2, it is recommended that the CS rate is between 20% and 35% according to the Robson criteria. In our study, this rate was found to be as large as 39%. For group 3 (multiparous normal delivery,  $>37$  weeks), the water should normally not be greater than 3% when examining 5, whereas it was found to be 12.7% in the current study. Reasons for this include either misinterpretation of data or increased rates of optional CS for tubal ligation. When column 5 is examined for group 4, it is rarely predicted to be greater than 15%. Our hospital data show that this rate is 17.5%. A high rate may indicate poor quality of data collection (such as the inclusion of women with uterine scars in group 4, who should be included in group 5). In addition, one of the reasons for the high CS rate in group 4 may be that the pregnant women who gave their first birth by normal spontaneous vaginal delivery gave birth with CS upon the request of the mother. Among the reasons for this, poor obstetric experiences, tubal ligation may be preferred in environments where access to contraception methods is difficult. When Table 3 is examined, the total CS (G6 + G7) was found to be 1.9%, in accordance with the WHO (must be below 4%) recommendation for group 6, which constitutes breech nulliparas, and group 7, which includes all women with multipara, single breech pregnancies, as

**Table 1. Group Description of Robson's Classification System**

Group	Obstetric Population
1	Nulliparous, singleton, cephalic, $\geq 37$ weeks pregnant women in spontaneous labor
2	Nulliparous, singleton, cephalic, $\geq 37$ weeks pregnant, induction or cesarean section before labor
3	Multiparous women in spontaneous labor with no previous uterine scar, single, cephalic, $\geq 37$ weeks of pregnancy
4	Multiparous, no previous uterine scar, singleton, cephalic, $\geq 37$ weeks of pregnancy, induction before labor or women who have had a cesarean section
5	Multiparous, all women with at least 1 previous cesarean section, singleton head presentation, $\geq 37$ weeks of pregnancy
6	Nulliparous, singleton, all women with breech pregnancy
7	All women with a breech-presentation pregnancy, including multiparous, singleton, previous cesarean section
8	All women with multiple pregnancies, including those with a previous cesarean section
9	All women with a singleton, transverse, or oblique presentation, including those with a previous cesarean section
10	All women with a singleton, cephalic presentation, $<37$ weeks of pregnancy, including those with prior cesarean section

Table 2. Distribution of Women who Gave Birth in 2018-2022 by Robson Groups

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Years	Group	Number of CS in the Group	Number of Women in the Group	Group Size <sup>1</sup>	Group CS Rat(%) <sup>2</sup>	Group Contribution to Total CS Ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>	Relative Contribution of the Group to the Total CS Ratio (%) <sup>4</sup>
2018	1	156	374	20.02	41.71	8.35	15.60
	2	72	127	6.80	56.69	3.85	7.20
	3	65	506	27.09	12.85	3.48	6.50
	4	34	170	9.10	20.00	1.82	3.40
	5	596	596	31.91	100.00	31.91	59.60
	6	22	22	1.18	100.00	1.18	2.20
	7	12	13	0.70	92.31	0.64	1.20
	8	27	28	1.50	96.43	1.45	2.70
	9	3	3	0.16	100.00	0.16	0.30
	10	13	29	1.55	44.83	0.70	1.30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>53.53</b>	<b>53.53</b>	<b>100.00</b>
2019	1	183	396	21.63	46.21	9.99	19.08
	2	52	112	6.12	46.43	2.84	5.42
	3	68	493	26.93	13.79	3.71	7.09
	4	34	188	10.27	18.09	1.86	3.55
	5	563	564	30.80	99.82	30.75	58.71
	6	20	20	1.09	100.00	1.09	2.09
	7	14	14	0.76	100.00	0.76	1.46
	8	13	13	0.71	100.00	0.71	1.36
	9	6	6	0.33	100.00	0.33	0.63
	10	6	25	1.37	24.00	0.33	0.63
	<b>Total</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>1831</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>52.38</b>	<b>52.38</b>	<b>100.00</b>
2020	1	112	324	21.16	34.57	7.32	15.28
	2	50	121	7.90	41.32	3.27	6.82
	3	41	411	26.85	9.98	2.68	5.59
	4	24	145	9.47	16.55	1.57	3.27
	5	444	445	29.07	99.78	29.00	60.57
	6	19	19	1.24	100.00	1.24	2.59
	7	13	14	0.91	92.86	0.85	1.77
	8	11	11	0.72	100.00	0.72	1.50
	9	4	4	0.26	100.00	0.26	0.55
	10	15	37	2.42	40.54	0.98	2.05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>1531</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>47.88</b>	<b>47.88</b>	<b>100.00</b>
2021	1	104	253	15.68	41.11	6.44	13.25
	2	51	210	13.01	24.29	3.16	6.50
	3	48	393	24.35	12.21	2.97	6.11
	4	29	177	10.97	16.38	1.80	3.69
	5	496	497	30.79	99.80	30.73	63.18
	6	15	15	0.93	100.00	0.93	1.91
	7	16	17	1.05	94.12	0.99	2.04
	8	9	12	0.74	75.00	0.56	1.15
	9	3	3	0.19	100.00	0.19	0.38
	10	14	37	2.29	37.84	0.87	1.78
	<b>Total</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>1614</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>48.64</b>	<b>48.64</b>	<b>100.00</b>

(Continued)

Table 2. Distribution of Women who Gave Birth in 2018-2022 by Robson Groups (Continued)

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Years	Group	Number of CS in the Group	Number of Women in the Group	Group Size <sup>1</sup>	Group CS Rat(%) <sup>2</sup>	Group Contribution to Total CS Ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>	Relative Contribution of the Group to the Total CS Ratio (%) <sup>4</sup>
2022	1	153	296	20.51	51.69	10.60	19.42
	2	54	128	8.87	42.19	3.74	6.85
	3	51	342	23.70	14.91	3.53	6.47
	4	22	151	10.46	14.57	1.52	2.79
	5	440	440	30.49	100.00	30.49	55.84
	6	15	15	1.04	100.00	1.04	1.90
	7	9	9	0.62	100.00	0.62	1.14
	8	15	15	1.04	100.00	1.04	1.90
	9	13	13	0.90	100.00	0.90	1.65
	10	16	34	2.36	47.06	1.11	2.03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>1443</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>54.61</b>	<b>54.61</b>	<b>100.00</b>
2018-2022	1	708	1643	19.83	43.09	8.54	16.60
	2	279	698	8.42	39.97	3.37	6.54
	3	273	2145	25.88	12.73	3.29	6.40
	4	143	831	10.03	17.21	1.73	3.35
	5	2539	2542	30.67	99.88	30.64	59.53
	6	91	91	1.10	100.00	1.10	2.13
	7	64	67	0.81	95.52	0.77	1.50
	8	75	79	0.95	94.94	0.91	1.76
	9	29	29	0.35	100.00	0.35	0.68
	10	64	162	1.95	39.51	0.77	1.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4265</b>	<b>8287</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>51.47</b>	<b>51.47</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<sup>1</sup>Group size (%) = n number of women in the group/total N women who gave birth in hospital × 100.

<sup>2</sup>Group C/S ratio (%) = n total N women in C/S group/group × 100.

<sup>3</sup>Actual contribution (%) = n total in C/S group/total number of N women who gave birth in hospital × 100.

<sup>4</sup>Relative contribution (%) = n total in C/S group/total C/S in hospital N × 100.

well as all women with breech pregnancies who had a previous CS. When Table 3 is examined again, it is seen that the G6/G7 ratio is 1.3 and is lower than 2 : 1. While cesarean rates are 100% for G6, this rate is 95.5% in G7. For group 8, including multiple pregnancies, when column 5 (Table 2) is examined, the CS rate is generally around 60%. In our study, this rate was found to be 94.9%, and it varies according to the way the twins arrive at the time of birth and whether the mother has had CS before. Group 9 represents transverse arrivals, with a magnitude of 0.35%, with a CS ratio of 100% as expected. The cesarean rate for group 10 is around 30% in most populations when viewed in column 5. In the current study, this rate is 39.5% and it is higher than 30% because it is usually due to preterm, high-risk pregnancy cases requiring CS before labor starts (e.g., fetal growth retardation, preeclampsia).

According to Robson, looking at Column 7 (the group's relative contribution to the total CS ratio) for groups 1, 2, and 5, these 3 groups constitute 2/3 (66%) of all CSs. In our current study, this rate was 16.6%, 6.5%, and 59.5%, respectively, between 2018 and 2022, and a high rate of 82.6% of all CSs was found. According to Robson's guidelines: If the hospital wants to reduce cesarean rates, it should focus its attention on these 3 groups. The higher the overall CS rate, particular attention should be paid to nulliparous women with a pregnancy >37 weeks (group 1). In our current

study, when column 7 in Table 2 is examined, group 5's relative contribution to the total CS rate was as high as 59.5%, compared to those in group 1 (nullipar >37 weeks) and group 2 (Nullipar >37 weeks, ind/CS) indicates high CS rates.

## DISCUSSION

In the current study, we classified all deliveries performed in our hospital between 2018 and 2022 according to the Robson classification system. When our data set was examined, the total CS rates in our hospital population were significantly higher than the values recommended by the WHO, and it was also found to be higher than in many countries.<sup>13</sup> Again, in our study, it was observed that the number and rates of nulliparous (G1+G2) and multiparous pregnant women (G3+G4) who applied to the hospital were different from WHO recommendations.<sup>8</sup>

In a study conducted in a tertiary hospital in Turkey in 2019, cesarean rates (23.1% in nulliparous patients and 39.2% in multiparous patients) were similar to our study results but far from WHO recommendations.<sup>14</sup> In another study conducted in Turkey, results close to WHO recommendations were found.<sup>2</sup> In the Robson 10 system, most patients were categorized in group 5 (previously CS, ≥37), followed by group 3 (multiparous normal delivery, ≥37) and group 1 (spontaneous nulliparous delivery, ≥37). Group 5 is

**Table 3. Comparison of the Data of Women who Gave Birth in 2018–2022 by Robson Groups with WHO Recommendations**

Criterion		Robson Proposal	Hospital Data	Comment
1. Group 1+see group 2 elders (Column 4) – Nulliparous women with a $\geq 37$ -week single head presentation pregnancy	Total G1/G2 ratio	Pregnant 35%-42% 2:1	28.2% 2.3	Since most of the population is represented by multiparous women, our 28.2% result is less than 35% for groups 1+2 combined. Usually 2:1 or higher. In our study, it is 2.3 and it is close to 2:1, which means that we have induced enough. According to Robson, below 10% can be reached. In principle, the higher the group 1:2 size ratios, the higher the cesarean rate for both group 1 and group 2 separately. It should be around 20-35% on a stable basis. In hospitals where there are many multiparous pregnant women, G1 + G2 is over 30%. It is always higher than the group 1/group 2 ratio in the same institution, greater than 2:3. It is a very reliable finding in confirming data quality and organizational culture. It is generally expected to be less than 3%. If it is high, it may be due to low data quality or tubal ligation request. It is usually less than 15%. Our study result being 10% indicates that the rates of cesarean section due to maternal request and optional CS are low. If the size of this group is larger, it means that there has been a high cesarean section rate in the past years, especially in groups 1 and 2. In places with high cesarean rates, the size of this group may be >15%. Rates of 50%-60% are considered appropriate and indicate that you have good maternal and perinatal outcomes. If rates are higher, it is probably due to the large size of group 5.2 (having 2 or more previous cesarean section). Another reason for this may be the policy of planning a cesarean section before labor begins, without attempting to attempt labor for all women with a previous history of cesarean section. If the total is greater than 4%, the most common cause is usually a high rate of preterm birth or a higher proportion of nulliparous women. If it is over 4%, it is usually a high rate of preterm birth or a high proportion of nulliparous women. If the ratio is different, suspect either unusual nullipara/multipara ratio or inaccurate data collection. The CS rate is around 60%. If higher, that center is likely either tertiary (high risk, referral center) or running a fertilization program. If it is lower, it is likely that most twin pregnancies are referred out and especially the remaining twins have a low cesarean rate. Group 9 size should be less than 1%. CS Ratio must be 100%. If she has had a vaginal delivery with an internal version, it should generally be classified as head or breech. Group size should be less than 5% in most normal risk environments. If the cesarean rate in this group is high (>30%), it may indicate that cesarean section performed by the service provider before the start of labor due to fetal growth retardation or preeclampsia and other pregnancy and medical complications.
Group 1: Nulliparous normal delivery, $\geq 37$	Cesarean rate	10%	43.9%	
Group 2: Nullipar $\geq 37$ w, ind/cs	Cesarean rate	20%-35%	39.9%	
Group 3+group 4 Group 3/group 4	Total Ratio	30% >2:1	35.9% 2.5	
Group 3: Multiparous normal delivery, $\geq 37$	Cesarean rate	<3%	12.7%	
Group 4: Multipar ind/cs, $\geq 37$ w	Cesarean rate	<15%	17.2%	
Group 5: CS, $\geq 37$ w	Size Cesarean rate	15% 50%-60%	30.6% 99.8%	
Group 6/Group 7	Total Ratio	3%-4% 2:1	1.9% 1.3	
Group 6: Nulliparous breech	Cesarean rate	4%	100%	
Group 7: Multiparous breech, CS	Cesarean rate	4%	95.5%	
Group 8: Multiple pregnancy, CS	Size Cesarean rate	1.5%-2% 60%	0.9% 94.9%	
Group 9: Transverse, CS	Size Cesarean rate	<1% 100%	0.3% 100%	
Group 10: Preterm birth, <37 w, CS	Size Cesarean rate	<5% 30%	1.9% 39.5%	

the group with the most pregnant women among the 10 groups in terms of the number of women. When the group contribution to the total CS ratio was examined, the groups that contributed the most were found to be group 5, group 1, and group 2, respectively. These 3 groups constituted 82.3% of the total CSs in this study. Groups 1 and 3 decreased in size over the 5-year research period. Groups 2, 4, and 10 sizes increased on average. In 2015, WHO analyzed the contribution of specific obstetric populations to changes in cesarean rates using the Robson classification of deliveries in 287 hospitals in 21 countries on the Robson system. In the WHO study, groups 1 and 3 had the largest proportion of patients, ranging from 25% to 45%, respectively, and group 1 generally had a lower proportion than group 3.<sup>15</sup> In our current study, group 5 and group 3 were the groups with the largest patient ratio. Group 1 took third place with 19.8%. However, in our current study, unlike the WHO study, the largest group was found to be 5. These data show similarities with a study conducted in Turkey in 2022.<sup>16</sup> In another study in Turkey, group 5 was the second largest

group after group 3. These study results were similar to group 3 in our current study.<sup>6</sup> The association between group 5 and high CS rate was previously reported by Robson.<sup>4</sup> Being greater than 15% according to the Robson guideline is associated with higher cesarean rates in group 1 and group 2. The cesarean rate in the private sector in both Brazil and Australia has been found to be actually high, or about 47%.<sup>13,17</sup> In countries with a medium human development index such as Brazil or Latin American countries, the cesarean rate in group 5 (multiple pregnancies with previous CS) ranged from 70% to 99%.<sup>18,19</sup> The high rate of CS in these studies was similar to our current study (group 5). Conversely, in countries with lower cesarean rates such as the Netherlands, France, or Scandinavian countries, the cesarean rate in group 5 was between 40% and 60%, and this rate is lower in contrast to our current study. This rate is lower than our current study.<sup>20</sup> In our study, the results of the groups that contributed the most to the CS ratio were groups 1, 2, and 5; it was similar to the results of studies conducted in Latin America<sup>19</sup> and Lithuania.<sup>21</sup> In this

context, the increase in the CS ratio especially in group 1 and group 2 causes a domino effect for group 5. The reason for this is that women with CS once may cause medicolegal problems such as perinatal death risk and uterine rupture in other pregnancies. For this reason, physicians tend to repeat CS for pregnant women with a previous history of CS.<sup>16</sup> When all deliveries are examined in many developed countries, the first 4 groups (G1+G2: nulliparous, G3+G4: multiparous pregnant) without a previous CS make the highest contribution to the general CS rates.<sup>14</sup> In our current study, when we examined the proportion of the pregnant population to which each of the Robson 10 groups contributed, we found that the size of groups 1-4 accounted for >64% of all obstetric patients. In addition, we calculated that groups 1-4 total CSs gave a relative contribution of 32.8%. In the last 5 groups (groups 6-10), the total group size is 5.1%, and its relative contribution to the CS rate is 7.5%, which is quite low compared to the first 4 groups. In groups 1-4, our CS rates seem to be higher than WHO recommendations. Among the reasons for this, it has been reported that in primigravids, CS decisions are made more easily instead of induction application in the first place, and in this respect, more importance should be given to inductions, and also, CS decision is made more easily in multigravid pregnant because of the family's request for tubal ligation.<sup>22</sup> To reduce overall CS rates in hospitals, the WHO recommends that special consideration should be given to groups 1,2, and 5, which account for at least 66% of CS rates. In fact, it is recommended that the higher the overall CS rate, the greater the importance to be given to group 1.<sup>23</sup> Also, group 5 (group of pregnant women with ex-CS) is a group in which it is possible to reduce CS rates. The WHO recommends that this group should be 15% of the size and also have a CS ratio of 50%-60%. However, vaginal delivery after CS has significant limitations. Considering these and preparing suitable conditions and environments are important conditions for vaginal delivery after CS.<sup>24</sup> However, the fact that our hospital conditions are not suitable for normal delivery after CS is an important shortcoming. Other important factors affecting success are the patients who apply for the appropriate conditions and their willingness to do so in their pregnant women. However, the fact that the pregnant women who applied to our hospital had more than 2 CS and our hospital is a referral center for placenta perkrata and placenta previa cases cause the CS rate to be 99.8%, exceeding the 15% size in group 5. When we look at groups 6 and 7, the total group size for breech presentation is 1.9%, which is lower than the WHO recommendation (4%). These results are also compatible with other studies conducted in Turkey.<sup>14,16</sup> When group 8 (multiple pregnancies) was evaluated, its size was 0.9% and it was found less than the WHO (1.5%-2%) recommendation. The CS rate was found to be greater than 60% (94.9%). When assessing the quality of the data, WHO recommends that the size of group 9 be <1% and CD rates in this group be 100%.<sup>25</sup> In this study, the size of group 9 was found to be 0.35% the rate of CS in this group was found to be 100%, and the results are in line with WHO recommendations. Our data also show that preterm (<37 weeks gestation) single, cephalic infants account for 1.9 of all births, consistent with the WHO recommendation <5%, but the cesarean delivery rate was 39.5% in this patient group (group 10). This rate is higher than the WHO recommendation of 30%. The reason for this elevation may be that CS was performed before labor starts in risky pregnancies (due to fetal growth retardation, preeclampsia, and medical complications in other pregnancies) in our clinic.

## Strengths and Limitations of the Study

All in-hospital births from 2018 to 2022 were included, and this may have reduced the selection bias. This study includes data from only 1 public hospital; therefore, results may not reflect all patient groups. Therefore, although it prevents the generalization of these data to the entire population, including the public and private sectors, it offers a roadmap to reduce CS rates.

In conclusion, it is necessary to take group-specific measures to reduce CS rates in target groups (group 1, group 2, and group 5). In order not to increase the rate of primary CS in nulliparous pregnant women, it may be recommended to insist on induction of labor for vaginal delivery, not to perform CS for tubal ligation in multiparous pregnant women, and to apply an external cephalic version before CS in breech presentations. In order to reduce these rates, scientific studies are needed to increase midwifery care practices and develop these practices in our country as well as in the world. Apart from this, in order to reduce the current CS rate in group 5, suitable conditions for vaginal delivery after CS should be provided. In terms of complications that may occur after these procedures, it is also necessary to legally secure health professionals.<sup>26</sup>

**Ethics Committee Approval:** Ethics committee approval was received for this study from within the Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University; Human research has been approved by the health and sports sciences ethics committee (Date: January 11 2023, approval number: 2022/12-10).

**Informed Consent:** Due to the retrospective design of the study, informed consent was not taken.

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