ORİJİNAL ARAŞTIRMA ORIGINAL RESEARCH

DOI: 10.5336/cardiosci.2022-93620

Examination of Care Burden and Stress Levels of Companions of Elderly Patients Undergoing Open Heart Surgery: Descriptive Research

Açık Kalp Cerrahisi Geçiren Yaşlı Hastaların Refakatçilerinin Bakım Yükü ve Stres Durumlarının İncelenmesi: Tanımlayıcı Araştırma

¹⁰Hatice Eda YOLTAY^a, ¹⁰Nihal ÇELİKTÜRK DORUKER^a, ¹⁰Fatma DEMİR KORKMAZ^a

^aDepartment of Surgical Nursing, Ege University Faculy of Nursing, İzmir, Türkiye

This study was oral presented as a summary in 4th International 12th National Congress of Turkish Surgery and Operating Room Nursing in January 13-16, 2022, Antalya, Türkiye.

ABSTRACT Objective: This study aimed to examine the care burden and stress levels of companions of elderly patients undergoing open heart surgery. Material and Methods: This descriptive and cross-sectional study was carried out in a university hospital with 44 companions giving care to elderly patients who underwent open heart surgery. Data were collected using a questionnaire which was prepared by the researchers and consists of four parts. The first part includes a patient introduction form and the second part includes a companion introduction form. The third and fourth parts consist of the Burden Interview and the Caregiver Strain Index. Research data were collected by face-to-face interview method. Descriptive statistics, independent sample t-test, one-way analysis of variance, and correlation analyses were used for data analysis. Results: The mean age of the companions included in the study was 51.50±13.2 (minimum: 28, maximum: 74). Of the companions, 77.3% were female; 84.1% were married; 40.9% were the spouses of the patients; 34.1% were literate, primary-secondary school graduates, and high school graduates; 45.5% were housewives. The mean Burden Interview score was 30.34±11.92 and the mean Caregiver Strain Index score was 5.65 ± 3.62 . There was a positive statistically significant correlation between the mean Burden Interview score and the mean Caregiver Strain Index scores (r=0.744, p=0.000). Conclusion: This study showed that an increase in care burden cause an increase in stress.

ÖZET Amac: Bu çalışmanın amacı, açık kalp cerrahisi geçiren yaşlı hastaların refakatçilerinin bakım yükü ve stres durumlarını incelemektir. Gereç ve Yöntemler: Tanımlayıcı ve kesitsel tipte olan bu çalışma bir üniversite hastanesinde açık kalp cerrahisi geçirmiş yaşlı hastalara bakım veren 44 refakatçi ile yürütüldü. Verilerin toplanmasında araştırmacılar tarafından hazırlanan 4 bölümden oluşan soru kâğıdı kullanıldı. Birinci bölümde hasta tanıtım formu, ikinci bölümde refakatçi tanıtım formu yer alırken üçüncü bölümde Bakım Verme Yükü Ölçeği ve dördüncü bölümde de Bakım Verenin Stres Ölçeği yer almakta idi. Araştırma verileri yüz yüze görüşme yöntemi ile toplandı. Verilerin analizinde tanımlayıcı istatistikler, bağımsız örneklem t-testi, tek yönlü varyans analizi ve korelasyon analizleri kullanıldı. Bulgular: Araştırma kapsamına alınan refakatçilerin yaş ortalaması 51,50±13,2'dir (minimum: 28, maksimum: 74). Refakatçilerin %77,3'ü kadın, %84,1'i evli, %40,9'u hastanın eşi, %34,1'i okuryazar-ilköğretim ve ortaöğretimlise mezunu ve %45,5'i ev hanımıdır. Bakım Verme Yükü Ölçeği puan ortalaması 30,34±11,92 iken Bakım Verenin Stres Ölçeği puan ortalaması 5,65±3,62'dir. Bununla birlikte Bakım Verme Yükü Ölçeği puan ortalaması ile Bakım Verenin Stres Ölçeği puan ortalaması arasında pozitif yönlü istatistiksel olarak anlamlı (r=0,744, p=0,000) bir ilişki bulundu. Sonuc: Bu çalışma, bakım yükünün artmasının stresi artırdığını gösterdi.

Keywords: Caregiver burden; cardiac surgery; stress; elderly

Anahtar Kelimeler: Bakıcı yükü; kardiyak cerrahisi; stres; yaşlı

The population aged 65 and over is over 500 million people in the world and is over seven million in Türkiye.^{1,2} As a result of increased cardiovascular diseases with the aging world population, a large number of elderly patients undergoing cardiac surgery.³

The most common cardiac surgeries performed in elderly patients are coronary artery bypass and valve surgery.^{4,5} Cardiac surgery is a high-risk procedure and the risk increases in elderly patients.^{6,7} It may cause complications such as increased systemic inflammatory response, myocardial damage, ar-



rhythmia, kidney damage, decrease in cardiac output, paralysis, and respiratory distress.⁷ Elderly individuals undergoing surgery are at greater risk of complications due to age-related disabilities, changes in body compensation, respiratory and cardiovascular systems, thermoregulation, kidney functions, fluidelectrolyte balance, and decreased stress response.⁸⁻¹² At the same time, the care of patients undergoing cardiac surgery is difficult and worrisome because of cardiac symptoms such as shortness of breath and palpitations.¹³ Accordingly, these patients need more care and support.⁸⁻¹² Caregivers are an important source of care and support for the elderly.¹⁴

Caregiving is a complex process and may lead to negative consequences such as physical and psychological burden, stress, and tension.¹⁵ These negativities experienced by caregivers due to care may create difficulties in taking the caregiver role.¹⁶ It is important for caregivers to identify the problems they experience and the negative outcomes in order to maintain their caring role. Care burden is one of the most widely researched negative consequences of caregiving.¹¹ It is a term that is used to describe the physical, emotional, and financial harms of providing care.¹⁷ Factors affecting care burden include the functional health status of the elderly, financial adequacy, personal characteristics of the caregiver, lifestyle changes, and coping.¹⁸⁻²⁰

One of the negative consequences of caregiving is stress. Moreover, it is emphasized that the care burden is the primary source of stress.²¹ In this respect, care burden and stress are the most important factors that negatively affect the health of caregivers.²² Determining the care burden and stress levels provides an opportunity to alleviate the care burden, reduce stress, and help the caregiver cope with difficulties.¹⁷ Moreover, it will guide the discharge training.²³ However, caregiver stress and burden are the factors that are often ignored.²²

In the literature, there are studies examining the care burden or stress of caregivers of elderly surgical patients.^{12,24} Although there are studies examining the care burden or stress of caregivers who provide care to patients undergoing cardiac surgery, no study has examined the care burden and stress of caregivers of

elderly patients who are hospitalized due to open heart surgery in the early period.^{23,25,26} Considering this, the study aimed to examine the care burden and stress levels of companions who give care to elderly patients undergoing open heart surgery. This study provides information about the caregiving characteristics, care burden, and quality of life of caregivers in our developing country, which includes cultural, socioeconomic differences and differences in terms of health system and resources.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

RESEARCH TYPE

This research has a descriptive and cross-sectional design.

RESEARCH SAMPLE

The research sample consisted of 44 voluntary companions of elderly patients, who had undergone open heart surgery in the cardiovascular surgery clinic between 06.03.2019-06.03.2020.

DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

This research was carried out in the cardiovascular surgery clinic of a university hospital in İzmir between 06.03.2019-06.03.2020. During the data collection process, the researchers first introduced themselves to the participant and explained the purpose of the research. Then, the participants were asked to fill in the forms after obtaining their informed and written consent. Research data were collected on the day of discharge of elderly patients who had undergone open heart surgery. Attention was paid not to interrupt patient care and treatment during data collection. The data were collected at an appropriate time after the end of patient care in the clinic. It took an average of 30 minutes to fill out the questionnaire.

A questionnaire was prepared by the researchers and used for data collection. It consists of four parts. The first part includes a patient introduction form consisting of a total of 10 questions, one open-ended question and nine multiple-choice questions, about sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the patient who was given care. The second part includes

Turkiye Klinikleri J Cardiovasc Sci. 2022;34(3):78-86

a companion introduction form consisting of a total of 19 questions, one open-ended question and 18 multiple-choice questions, about the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the caregivers. The third part consists of the Burden Interview (BI) and the fourth part includes the Caregiver Strain Index (CSI).

BI: BI was developed by Zarit and Zarit to evaluate the difficulties experienced by caregivers of individuals who are in need of care.²⁷ The Turkish adaptation of the scale was established by İnci and Erdem. The tool includes 22 items that are rated on a Likert-type scale ranging from 0 to 4 as "never", "rarely", "sometimes", "often", or "always". The lowest score obtainable from the scale is 0 and the highest score is 88. A total score of 88-61 indicates "severe burden"; a score of 60-41 indicates "moderate burden"; a score of 40-21 indicates "mild to moderate burden"; a score less than 21 indicates "low burden" or "no burden". A high score on the scale indicates a high level of distress. Cronbach's alpha internal consistency coefficient of the scale was 0.95.28 In this study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found to be 0.84.

CSI: CSI was developed by Robinson in order to measure the subjective care burden of caregivers and quickly identify families with care concerns quickly.²⁹ The Turkish adaptation of the scale was established by Uğur. The scale consists of 13 items related to employment status, financial status, physical status, social status, and time. The items are answered as Yes (1) or No (0). The scale score is obtained by summing the scores of 0 and 1 obtained from 13 items. A positive response to seven or more items indicates a higher level of stress. The Cronbach alpha internal consistency coefficient of the scale was 0.77.³⁰ In this study, the Cronbach alpha coefficient was found to be 0.83.

DATA EVALUATION

The research data were evaluated in the SPSS 26.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) program. Descriptive statistics (mean, median, standard deviation, percentage, and frequency) were used in the analysis of descriptive data. The normality assumption of quantitative data was checked with the Shapiro-Wilk W

test. Independent samples t-test and one-way analysis of variance were used for normally distributed variables. Pearson correlation analysis was performed to determine the correlation between two variables. A value of p<0.05 was considered statistically significant for all results.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Prior to the collection of research data, written permission was obtained from the Medical Research Ethics Committee of the Rectorate of Ege University Faculty of Medicine (date: June 26, 2019, no: 19-6.1T/43), the hospital management, the patients, and the accompanying caregivers. In order to use the scales in the study, permission was received from the authors of the scale via e-mail. The research was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki.

RESULTS

The mean age of the patients who were given care was 68.81 ± 5.25 (minimum, 52, maximum, 80). Of the patients, 63.6% were male; 75.0% were married; 95.5% had children; 40.9% were literate or primary school graduates; 65.9% were retired; 100% had social security; 88.6% were unemployed; 52.3% had an income more than their expenses. 72.8% of the patients underwent coronary artery bypass surgery (Table 1).

The mean age of the companions was 51.50±13.52 (minimum, 28; maximum, 74). Of the caregivers, 77.3% were female; 84.1% were married; 40.9% were the spouses of the patients; 79.5% had children; 34.1% were literate, primary school graduates, or secondary-high school graduates; 45.5% were housewives. 88.6% of the companions had social security; 68% were unemployed; 52.3% had an income more than their expenses. 31.8% of the companions stated that they were responsible of giving care to a person other than the elderly patient who had undergone surgery. 65.9% of the companions had been giving care to their patients who had undergone surgery for less than six months and 50.0% had received support from others while giving care. 31.8% of the companions experienced physical, 31.8% experienced psychological, 61.4% had social, and 31.8% had financial problems during the accompanying period.

TABLE 1: Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the caregiver patients.				
	n	%		
Gender				
Female	16	36.4		
Male	28	63.6		
Marital status				
Married	33	75.0		
Single	11	25.0		
Number of children				
No children	2	4.5		
1-2	26	59.1		
3-4	16	36.4		
Education status				
Illiterate	3	6.8		
Literate or primary school	18	40.9		
Secondary or high school	14	31.8		
University	9	20.5		
Occupation				
Housewife	9	20.5		
Retired	29	65.9		
Other (farmer, self-employed, worker, physician)	6	13.6		
Presence of social security				
Yes	44	100.0		
Working status				
Full day employed	4	9.1		
Half day employed	1	2.3		
Unemployed	39	88.6		
Income and expense status				
Income less than expenses	6	13.6		
Income equal to expenses	15	34.1		
Income more than expenses	23	52.3		
Type of surgery				
Coronary artery bypass surgery	32	72.8		
Heart valve surgery	6	13.6		
Ventricular assist device implantation	6	13.6		
Total	44	100		

Moreover, 71.4% of the companions suspended their work life and 38.6% had changes in their family relations during the accompanying period (Table 2).

CAREGIVER BURDEN AND STRESS OF COMPANIONS

In this study, the mean BI score of the companions providing care to elderly patients who underwent open heart surgery was 30.34 ± 11.92 and their mean CSI score was 5.65 ± 3.62 (minimum, 0.0; maximum, 13). The mean CSI score of the companions who had

TABLE 2: Sociodemographic and care-giving characteristics of companions.				
	n	%		
Gender Female Male	34 10	77.3 22.7		
Marital status Married Single	37 7	84.1 15.9		
Companion's degree of relation to the patient Spouse Children Mother, father	18 16 3	40.9 36.4 6.8		
Other (daugnter-In-law, sister, relative, friend) Number of children No children 1-2 3-4	9 28 7	20.5 63.6 15.9		
Education status Literate or primary school Secondary or high school University	15 15 14	34.1 34.1 31.8		
Occupation Housewife Retired Other (worker, civil servant, self-employment)	20 8 16	45.5 18.2 36.4		
Yes No	39 5	88.6 11.4		
Working status Full day employed Half day employed Unemployed	13 1 30	29.5 2.3 68.2		
Income and expense status Income less than expenses Income equal to expenses Income more than expenses	8 13 23	18.2 29.5 52.3		
Responsibility to give care to for a person other than the elderly patient who had undergone surgery Yes No	14 30	31.8 68.2		
Duration of care for patients who had undergone surgery <6 month 6-24 month >25 month	29 7 8	65.9 15.9 18.2		
Receiving support from others while giving care Yes No	22 22	50.0 50.0		
Financial problems during the accompanying period Yes No	14 30	31.8 68.2		
Psychological problems during the accompanying period Yes No	14 30	31.8 68.2		
Changes in social life during the accompanying period Yes No	27 17	61.4 38.6		
Financial problems during the accompanying period Yes No	14 30	31.8 68.2		
Suspended work life (n=14) Yes No	10 4	71.4 28.6		
Changes in family relations during the accompanying period Yes No	17 27	38.6 61.4		
Total	44	100		

caregiver companions.					
	Mean BI score X±SD	Statistical analysis	Mean CSI score X±SD	Statistical analysis	
Mean BI score=30.34±11.92 (minimum, 5; maximum, 55)					
Mean CSI score=5.65±3.62 (minimum: 0.0; maximum: 13)					
Gender Fomalo (n=34)	30 /7+11 75	+- 0 131	5 58+3 85	t=0.236	
Male (n=10)	29 90+13 11	n=0.896	5.00±3.00 5.90+2.88	n=0.814	
Marital status	23.30113.11	μ=0.050	0.0012.00	p=0.014	
Married (n=37)	28.62±12.00	t=-2.307	5.16±3.61	t=-2.178	
Single (n=7)	39.42±6.34	p=0.119	8.28±2.49	p=0.307	
Companion's degree of relation to the patient					
Spouse (n=18)	27.11±13.34	F=1.421	5.16±3.51	F=1.332	
Children (n=16)	34.06±12.35	p=0.251	6.50±4.06	p=0.278	
Mother-father (n=3)	30.00±5.85		8.00±1.00		
Number of children	21.42±4.02		4.00±3.00		
No children (n=9)	35.33±8.94	F=1.050	7.22+3.63	F=1.621	
1-2 (n=28)	29.39±12.80	p=0.359	5.57±3.60	p=0.210	
3-4 (n=7)	27.71±11.16		4.00±3.36	·	
Education status					
Literate or primary school (n=15)	29.78±12.79	F=0.744	4.92±4.10	F=0.380	
Secondary or high school (n=15)	33.60±11.18	p=0.532	5.93±3.91	p=0.744	
University (n=14)	28.07±12.12		6.21±2.99		
Housewife (n=20)	30 90+12 46	F=0 049	5 55+4 14	F=1 045	
Retired (n=8)	29.37±11.12	p=0.953	4.25±3.15	p=0.361	
Other (worker, civil servant, self-employment) (n=16)	30.12±12.33	P	6.50±3.07	P	
Presence of social security					
Yes (n=39)	30.94±12.11	t=0.943	5.74±3.78	t=0.427	
No (n=5)	25.60±10.13	p=0.351	5.00±2.23	p=0.671	
Working status	00.04.40.00	E-0.400	0.70.0.04	E-4.050	
Full day employed (n=13)	29.84±13.08	F=0.409	0.70±3.21 3.00±0.00	F=1.050	
Unemployed (n=30)	30 90+11 65	p=0.007	5 26+3 77	p=0.001	
Income and expense status	00000211100		0.2020.11		
Income less than expenses (n=8)	37.14±12.13	F=1.501	7.85±4.74	F=1.870	
Income equal to expenses (n=13)	29.30±9.98	p=0.229	5.15±3.46	p=0.150	
Income more than expenses (n=23)	29.56±12.46		5.52±3.14		
Responsibility to give care to a person other than the elderly patien	nt who had undergone su	Irgery	E 0E . 2 4E	- 0 272	
$N_{0} (n=30)$	32.70±12.30 20.20±11.77	1-0.915 n=0.370	5.20±3.40	l=-0.373 n=0.711	
Duration of care for patients who had undergone surgery	23.20111.11	p=0.070	5.00±5.75	p=0.711	
<6 month (n=29)	28.79±11.85	F=2.211	5.34±3.62	F=1.412	
6-24 month (n=7)	27.42±12.14	p=0.102	5.57±3.40	p=0.253	
>25 month (n=8)	40.42±8.42		7.71±3.49		
Receiving support from others while giving care	00.00 10.00		0.04.0.11		
Yes (n=22)	32.22±10.92	t=1.051	6.04±3.44	t=0.702	
Financial problems during the accompanying period	20.40±12.02	p=0.300	0.21±0.04	µ−0.400	
Yes (n=14)	34.21±9.59	t=1,493	7,28+3,17	t=2,112	
No (n=30)	28.53±12.60	p=0.143	4.90±3.62	p=0.041	
Psychological problems during the accompanying period					
Yes (n=14)	36.64±9.38	t=2.542	7.78±2.80	t=2.871	
No (n=30)	27.40±11.96	p=0.015	4.66±3.57	p=0.006	
Changes in social life during the accompanying period	25 66+0 42	4-4.490	7 05+0 07	4-4.407	
$N_0(n=17)$	21.88+10.65	r=0.000	3 11+3 27	n=0.000	
Financial problems during the accompanying period	21100210100	P 01000	011120121	P 01000	
Yes (n=14)	38.85±6.99	t=2.643	8.21±2.48	t=3.611	
No (n=30)	27.30±12.60	p=0.011	4.46±3.48	p=0.001	
Suspended work life (n=14)					
Yes (n=10)	28.20±11.40	t=-0.420	6.40±2.83	t=-0.175	
(NO (N=4) Changes in family relations during the accompanying period	31.50±17.71	p=0.682	0.75±4.64	p=0.864	
Yes (n=17)	37.17+10.37	t=3,359	7.88+3.17	t=3,662	
No (n=27)	26.03±10.91	p=0.002	4.25±3.20	p=0.001	
. ,	-	· ·			

TABLE 3: The distribution of the mean scores on BI and CSI according to the sociodemographic and care-giving characteristics of the caregiver companions.

Correlated factors are indicated in bold; BI: Burden Interview; CSI: Caregiver Strain Index; SD: Standard deviation; t: Independent sample t-test; F: One-way analysis of variance; Significant at p<0.05.

physical problems during their companionship was higher (t=2.112, p=0.041; Z=-2.536, p=0.011). Furthermore, the mean BI and CSI scores of those who experienced psychological (t=2.542, p=0.015; t=2.871, p=0.006) and financial (t=2.643, p=0.011; t=3.611, p=0.001) problems and those who experienced changes in social life (t=4.489, p=0.000; t=4.407, p=0.000) and family relations (t=3.359, p=0.002; t=3.662, p=0.001) were higher (Table 3).

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BI, CSI, AND AGE

A positive, strong, statistically significant (r=0.744, p=0.000) correlation was found between the mean BI and CSI scores. There was no statistically significant (r=-0.257, p=0.092) correlation between the mean BI score and age. A negative, moderate, statistically significant (r=-0.447, p=0.002) correlation was determined between the mean CSI score and age.

DISCUSSION

Examining a caregivers' care burden and stress is important as it will affect the caregivers' own health and well-being as well as the assistance received by the individual receiving care.¹⁶ In this study, the care burden and stress levels of the caregivers of elderly patients undergoing open heart surgery during their hospital stay were examined. It was determined that the majority of the participants in this study were female and married. In the literature, no study has examined the caregivers of elderly patients undergoing open heart surgery during the stress levels of studies conducted on caregivers of elderly patients.

CARE BURDEN OF CAREGIVER COMPANION

In this study, the care burden of the caregivers who gave care to elderly patients who underwent open heart surgery during their hospital stay was found to be mild to moderate. In the study conducted by Ariza-Vega et al. with caregivers of elderly patients one year after hip fracture surgery, it was reported that the level of care burden was high.²⁴ In a study conducted with caregivers of hospitalized elderly patients, the level of care burden was found to be moderate.³¹ In the study conducted by Xiao and Zhou with caregivers who gave care to patients for more than three months due to femoral neck fracture and continued to give care to their hospitalized patients after surgery, it was found that the caregiver burden was at a significant level.³² In the study of Luo et al. with caregivers of hospitalized elderly patients with spinal tumors, it was stated that the caregiver burden was at a significant level.³³ In this study, although the level of care burden was similar to those reported in the literature, it was higher than expected because the majority of the care of elderly patients, who underwent open heart surgery, during their stay in the hospital was given by nurses. This may indicate that the post-discharge care burden of the companions will increase even more.

STRESS OF CAREGIVER COMPANION

In this study, the stress levels of the companions who gave care to elderly patients, who underwent open heart surgery, during their hospital stay were found to be low. In the study conducted by Janssen et al. with caregivers of elderly patients undergoing major abdominal surgery, the level of stress was reported to be severe. It was also stated that the stress level of caregivers peaked 2 weeks after discharge and that the stress level decreased after the 6th and 12th months.¹² In a study conducted on caregivers of elderly inpatients, it was determined that the stress of caregivers was at mild to moderate levels.³⁴ In the literature, the stress level of caregivers differs. In this study, the level of caregiver stress was found to be lower than expected. It can be said that elderly patients undergoing heart surgery affect the stress levels of caregivers. In addition, the low stress level of the companions can be explained by the fact that the treatment and care of the patients were under the control of health professionals throughout the hospital stay.

STRESS AND CARE BURDEN OF CAREGIVER COMPANION

In this study, it was observed that the stress levels of caregivers who gave care to elderly patients who underwent open heart surgery increased as their care burden increased. This correlation was found to be consistent with the findings reported in the literature. Previous studies showed that stress increases as the care burden increases.^{35,36}

In this study, the care burden and stress levels of the companions who experienced psychological and financial problems due to caregiving and who experienced changes in social life and family relations were found to be higher. This can be explained by the fact that care brings emotional, social, and economic responsibilities.

LIMITATIONS

This study has some limitations. The results of the study cannot be generalized since it was conducted with a limited sample in a single center.

CONCLUSION

In this study, which examined the care burden and stress levels of caregiver companions of elderly patients who underwent open heart surgery during their hospital stay, it was found that the level of care burden was mild, that the stress level was low, and that high care burden increased stress. However, in the early postoperative period, when the care and treatment of the patient was provided by health professionals, the care burden and stress levels of the companions would be expected to be even lower. Furthermore, the care burden and stress levels of patients' companions who experienced psychological and financial problems and changes in social life and family relations were found to be higher.

It is thought that it would be beneficial for nurses, who cooperate with the clinicians, to take these findings into account while planning care and applying treatments. Moreover, it is important for nurses to provide necessary information to patients' companions, cooperate in treatment and care, and create a comfortable environment. It is also recommended to share social, economic, and care sources with companions after discharge.

Source of Finance

During this study, no financial or spiritual support was received neither from any pharmaceutical company that has a direct connection with the research subject, nor from a company that provides or produces medical instruments and materials which may negatively affect the evaluation process of this study.

Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest between the authors and / or family members of the scientific and medical committee members or members of the potential conflicts of interest, counseling, expertise, working conditions, share holding and similar situations in any firm.

Authorship Contributions

Idea/Concept: Hatice Eda Yoltay, Nihal Çeliktürk Doruker, Fatma Demir Korkmaz; Design: Hatice Eda Yoltay, Nihal Çeliktürk Doruker, Fatma Demir Korkmaz; Control/Supervision: Hatice Eda Yoltay, Nihal Çeliktürk Doruker, Fatma Demir Korkmaz; Data Collection and/or Processing: Hatice Eda Yoltay, Nihal Çeliktürk Doruker; Analysis and/or Interpretation: Hatice Eda Yoltay, Nihal Çeliktürk Doruker, Fatma Demir Korkmaz; Literature Review: Nihal Çeliktürk Doruker; Writing the Article: Hatice Eda Yoltay, Nihal Çeliktürk Doruker, Fatma Demir Korkmaz; Critical Review: Hatice Eda Yoltay, Nihal Çeliktürk Doruker, Fatma Demir Korkmaz.

REFERENCES

- National Institute on Aging (NIA), World Health Organization (WHO). Global Health and Aging. (2011). Accessed: 20.01.2023 Available from: [Link]
- Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu [İnternet]. [Erişim tarihi: 19 Ocak 2021]. İstatistiklerle Yaşlılar, 2019. Erişim linki: [Link]
- Wiedemann D, Bernhard D, Laufer G, Kocher A. The elderly patient and cardiac surgery - a mini-review. Gerontology. 2010;56(3):241-9. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Yaffee DW, Williams MR. Cardiovascular surgery in the elderly. Semin Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2016;28(4):741-7. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Yazdanyar A, Newman AB. The burden of cardiovascular disease in the elderly: morbidity, mortality, and costs. Clin Geriatr Med. 2009;25(4):563-77, vii. [Crossref] [PubMed] [PMC]
- Speziale G, Nasso G, Barattoni MC, Esposito G, Popoff G, Argano V, et al. Short-term and long-term results of cardiac surgery in elderly and very elderly patients. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2011;141(3):725-31, 731.e1. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Senst B, Basit H, Diaz RR. Cardiac surgery. StatPearls. 2018. Available from: [Link]
- Zoghi M. Yaşlılarda kardiyovasküler fonksiyonlar [Cardiovascular functions in the elderly]. Turk Geriatri Derg. 2010;13(2):1-4. [Link]
- Watters JM. Surgery in the elderly. Can J Surg. 2002;45(2):104-8. [PubMed] [PMC]
- Katlic MR. Principles of geriatric surgery. Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Elderly. 1st ed. New York: Springer; 2011. p.25-42. [Crossref]
- Bastawrous M. Caregiver burden--a critical discussion. Int J Nurs Stud. 2013;50(3):431-41. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Janssen TL, Lodder P, de Vries J, van Hoof-de Lepper CCHA, Gobardhan PD, Ho GH, et al. Caregiver strain on informal caregivers when providing care for older patients undergoing major abdominal surgery: a longitudinal prospective cohort study. BMC Geriatr. 2020;20(1):178. [Crossref] [PubMed] [PMC]
- Bjørnnes AK, Moons P, Parry M, Halvorsen S, Tønnessen T, Lie I. Experiences of informal caregivers after cardiac surgery: a systematic integrated review of qualitative and quantitative studies. BMJ Open. 2019;9(11):e032751. [Crossref] [PubMed] [PMC]
- Vellone E, Fida R, Cocchieri A, Sili A, Piras G, Alvaro R. Positive and negative impact of caregiving to older adults: a structural equation model. Prof Inferm. 2011;64(4):237-48. [PubMed]
- Ekwall AK, Hallberg IR. The association between caregiving satisfaction, difficulties and coping among older family caregivers. J Clin Nurs. 2007;16(5):832-44. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Zarit SH. Assessment of family caregivers: a research perspective. Report from a National Consensus Development Conference: Caregiver Assessment: Voices and Views from the Field. Vol. 2. II. San Francisco: Family Caregiver Alliance; 2006. p.12-37.
- Parks SM, Novielli KD. A practical guide to caring for caregivers. Am Fam Physician. 2000;62(12):2613-22. [PubMed]

- Lidell E. Family support--a burden to patient and caregiver. Eur J Cardiovasc Nurs. 2002;1(2):149-52. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Lin PC, Lu CM. Hip fracture: family caregivers' burden and related factors for older people in Taiwan. J Clin Nurs. 2005;14(6):719-26. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Lai DW. From burden to depressive symptoms: the case of Chinese-Canadian family caregivers for the elderly. Soc Work Health Care. 2009;48(4):432-49. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Pearlin LI. The sociological study of stress. J Health Soc Behav. 1989;30(3):241-56. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Honea NJ, Brintnall R, Given B, Sherwood P, Colao DB, Somers SC, et al. Putting Evidence into Practice: nursing assessment and interventions to reduce family caregiver strain and burden. Clin J Oncol Nurs. 2008;12(3):507-16. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Kneeshaw MF, Considine RM, Jennings J. Mutuality and preparedness of family caregivers for elderly women after bypass surgery. Appl Nurs Res. 1999;12(3):128-35. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Ariza-Vega P, Ortiz-Pi-a M, Kristensen MT, Castellote-Caballero Y, Jiménez-Moleón JJ. High perceived caregiver burden for relatives of patients following hip fracture surgery. Disabil Rehabil. 2019;41(3):311-8. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Halm MA, Treat-Jacobson D, Lindquist R, Savik K. Correlates of caregiver burden after coronary artery bypass surgery. Nurs Res. 2006;55(6):426-36. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Robley L, Ballard N, Holtzman D, Cooper W. The experience of stress for open heart surgery patients and their caregivers. West J Nurs Res. 2010;32(6):794-813. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Zarit SH, Zarit JM. The Memory and Behavior Problems Checklist and the Burden Interview. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Gerontology Center; 1990.
- İnci FH, Erdem M. Bakım Verme Yükü Ölçeği'nin Türkçe'ye uyarlanması geçerlilik ve güvenilirliği [Validity and reliability of the Burden Interview and its Adaptation to Turkish]. Journal of Anatolia Nursing and Health Science. 2006;11(4):85-95. [Link]
- 29. Robinson BC. Validation of a Caregiver Strain Index. J Gerontol. 1983;38(3):344-8. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Uğur O. Onkoloji hastasına evde bakım verenlerin bakım yükünün incelenmesi [Doktora tezi]. İzmir: Ege Üniversitesi; 2006. Accessed: 20.01.2023 Available from: [Link]
- Fuhrmann AC, Becker Kottwitz Bierhals CC, dos Santos NO, Paskulin LM. Associação entre a capacidade functional de idosos dependents e a sobrecarga do cuidador familiar [Association between the functional capacity of dependent elderly people and the burden of family caregivers]. Rev Gaucha Enferm. 2015;36(1):14-20. Portuguese. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Xiao P, Zhou Y. Factors associated with the burden of family caregivers of elderly patients with femoral neck fracture: a cross-sectional study. J Orthop Surg Res. 2020;15(1):234. [Crossref] [PubMed] [PMC]

- Luo J, Zhou Y, Liu H, Hu J. Factors related to the burden of family caregivers of elderly patients with spinal Tumours in Northwest China. BMC Neurol. 2020;20(1):69. [Crossref] [PubMed] [PMC]
- Desbiens NA, Mueller-Rizner N, Virnig B, Lynn J. Stress in caregivers of hospitalized oldest-old patients. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci. 2001;56(4):M231-5. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Santos-García D, de la Fuente-Fernández R. Factors contributing to caregivers' stress and burden in Parkinson's disease. Acta Neurol Scand. 2015;131(4):203-10. [Crossref] [PubMed]
- Shanmugam RS, Vanaja R, Rajathi S. The relationship between strain and burden among caregivers of cancer survivors. IJAR. 2016;2(5):20-3. [Link]