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## PROFESSIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG PALLIATIVE CARE TEAMS

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**Background:** Palliative care providers are exposed to the dying process as part of their job. Dealing with patient's symptoms may have ramifications for palliative team's professional quality of life (ProQol). Research has focused on unique work-related outcomes such as compassion satisfaction (CS), secondary traumatization (STS) and burnout (BU).

**Aim:** Aim of this study is to compare ProQol among palliative workers who have a high level of exposure to patient's death, with their colleagues who have a low level of exposure.

**Study Population:** Research group: all physicians, nurses and social workers who provide palliative care in hospital and community-based hospices (N=355). Control group: physicians, nurses and social workers who provide primary care services at Clalit Health Services clinics (N=710).

**Data Collection:** 151 questionnaires were returned from the research group (response rate 42%) and 150 from the control group (response rate 21%).

**Data Analysis:** The psychometric characteristics of the Hebrew version of the ProQol questionnaire were assessed using CFA and EFA methods. Differences between the groups in level of

exposure to death were assessed by a multivariate analysis of variance (MANCOVA) using the three ProQol components (CS, STS and BU) as the dependent variables.

**Results:** In terms of CS, STS and BU there were no significant differences in frequencies between the groups. In both groups there was a reduced level of secondary traumatization ( $20.78 \pm 6.03$  and  $19.3 \pm 5.32$  respectively), a moderate level of compassion satisfaction ( $40.72 \pm 5.28$  and  $39.89 \pm 5.97$  respectively), and an average intensity of burnout ( $2.62 \pm 0.92$  and  $2.7 \pm 0.98$  respectively).

**Discussion & Conclusions:** Discussion will emphasize the unique contribution of level of engagement to STS among palliative workers and the importance of measuring both positive and negative work-related outcomes in light of the existing knowledge indicating low rates of negative work-related outcomes among palliative workers.

### Biography

Tali Samson currently works at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Tali does research in Social Theory.

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