

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NURSES' CARING BEHAVIOR
BASED ON JEAN WATSON'S THEORY AND THE STRESS
LEVEL OF PATIENTS WITH DIABETIC ULCERS
AT MARDI WALUYO HOSPITAL, BLITAR**

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Diabetic ulcer patients often experience severe stress due to prolonged pain, fear of amputation, and economic burden, thus requiring nurses' attention through the application of Care behavior to provide psychological support. However, the phenomenon in the field shows that nurses often focus more on physical aspects, such as wound care and medication administration, without paying attention to the psychological, emotional, and spiritual aspects of patients. This indicates that nurses' attention to the psychological, emotional, and spiritual aspects of patients is still minimal. **Method:** This study used a descriptive correlational design with a cross-sectional approach. The study population was all diabetic ulcer patients treated at Mardi Waluyo Blitar Regional General Hospital, with a sample of 48 respondents selected using a purposive sampling technique. The research instrument used the Nurse Caring Behavior Questionnaire (KPCP) and the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-10). Data analysis was carried out using the Spearman Rank correlation test. **Results:** The results of the study showed that the caring behavior of nurses based on Jean Watson's theory was in the sufficient category, the stress level of diabetic ulcer patients was in the moderate category, and the value ($p = 0.001 < p = 0.05$) and the value ($r = -0.646$), indicated a strong relationship between nurses' caring behavior based on Jean Watson's theory and the stress level of diabetic ulcer patients at Mardi Waluyo Blitar Regional General Hospital. **Conclusion:** The negative correlation value indicates that the better the nurses' caring behavior, the lower the patient's stress level. Consistent application of Jean Watson's caring theory is expected to strengthen the therapeutic relationship and improve the psychological well-being of patients.

Keywords: Caring behavior of nurses, Stress level, Diabetic ulcers