

## **The perceptions on Individualised care: A comparative study between Greek and Cypriot orthopaedic nurses**

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**Background:** Individualised care has been a long-standing tradition in nursing, yet little is known about the extent to which individualised care is implemented, the effects of such care, and the factors that help or hinder nurses in their quest for individualised care. It may also have different connotations in different cultures. In order to evaluate such care there is need to search nurses’ perceptions of individualized care

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to examine and compare the orthopaedic nurses’ point of view of individuality in the care provided in two culturally similar countries as are Greek and Cyprus. This is a part of a larger international study.

**Design:** A cross-sectional comparative study design was employed.

**Settings:** This study was carried out in total 9 hospitals in Cyprus and Greece

**Participants:** Data were collected amongst orthopaedic nurses in 4 hospitals in Greece (n=147, rr=81.66%), and 5 hospitals in Cyprus (n=150, rr=87.7%).

**Instruments:** The Individualised Care Scale (ICSA and ICSB) was used. The data were analysed using descriptive methods and inferential statistics such as Pearson correlation study and t-test.

**Findings:** There were statistically significant between countries differences in some of the mean scores of the ICS-A and ICS-B sub scales measuring perceptions of individuality in care. The mean scores for the whole ICS-A for Greek nurses were higher (4.3) than that of Cypriot nurses (3.9) and for the ICS-B for Greek nurses (4.2) than that of Cypriot (3.9). The Greek nurses’ perceptions of the support of personal life situation (PersA) and the involvement of patients in the decision making process (DesA) were statistically significantly higher than those of Cypriot nurses ( $p < 0.001$ ). Differences were also found in perceptions of individuality in personal life situation (PersB) and in decisional control over care (DecB) between Greece nurses and Cyprus nurses ( $p < 0.001$ ). No significant differences were found between the two countries in subscales of Clinical Situation (ICS-A and ICS-B).

**Conclusions:** Although the Greek culture is grown in both countries, differences found in nurses’ perceptions of individualised care may be attributed to the way nursing care is defined and organised. Further studies are needed to clarify this.