

# **The Relationship Between Secondary Traumatic Stress and Clinical Performance of Jordanian Emergency Nurses**

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## **Abstract**

This study aimed to investigate the association between secondary traumatic stress and nursing performance among Jordanian emergency nurses. This study was conducted using a descriptive correlational design, wherein, a convenient sample of 251 emergency department nurses took part in the study. The results showed that nurses have severe levels of secondary traumatic stress ( $M=57.9$ ,  $SD=14.94$ ), with the avoidance scale being the highest rated. While the nursing performance level is below average ( $M=27.48$ ,  $SD=9.36$ ), the mental performance subscale rated the lowest ( $M=5.82$ ,  $SD=2.69$ ). The findings revealed a strong negative association between the secondary traumatic stress total score and the total score of nursing performance ( $r = - 0.77$ ,  $p 0.001$ ). Additionally, high body mass index, smoking, presence of chronic diseases, working overtime, and high secondary traumatic stress were significant predictors of nursing performance. Given these findings, treatment programs and actions for emergency nurses should be implemented to treat and prevent high secondary traumatic stress and enhance their performance which, in return will ensure a high and safe quality of patient care.

**Keywords:** Emergency department, Nursing performance, Secondary traumatic stress

