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Effectiveness of Integrative Restoration (iRest) Yoga Nidra on Mindfulness, Sleep, and Pain in Health Care Workers

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Abstract

This article examines the effectiveness of Integrative Restoration (iRest) Yoga Nidra meditation on mindfulness, sleep, and pain in health care workers. As health care workers provide emotional support to patients, it is not uncommon for workers to experience both physical and mental exhaustion. One holistic approach to support employees is mindfulness training. iRest Yoga Nidra is a complementary and integrative health therapy that increases mindfulness. A pre-/postinterveniton descriptive survey design was used. Before and after experiencing iRest meditation, participants completed a 51-item questionnaire consisting of demographics plus 3 validated instruments: the Five-Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire (FFMQ), the Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS), and Department of Defense/Veterans Administration (DoD/VA) Pain Supplemental Questions (PSQ). A total of 15 participants completed both questionnaires. Postintervention FFMQ scores were significantly higher than preintervention (z = -3.294, P = .001). The highest subscale scores were "acting with awareness" and "nonjudging of inner experience." There was a not a significant difference in the mean ESS scores at baseline and follow-up. However, there was a strong negative correlation between the mean ESS improvement score and the number of weeks attended (rs = -0.705, P = .003). There was a not a significant difference in the mean pain baseline and follow-up scores. This study showed significant improvement in mindfulness of health care workers following a guided 8-week iRest Yoga Nidra program. The results of this study may provide some insight into helping health care workers deal with the demands of their profession in a positive manner, thus leading to an improved workplace environment.

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