

Abstract

Original Article

Occupational Health Problems of Nurses Working at Emergency Departments

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Abstract

Background: Emergency departments, where individuals under extreme stress are served and frequent deaths, life threatening accidents, and critical cases are observed, are evaluated as settings with high occupational stress.

Aim: This study was conducted to determine common occupational health problems of nurses working at emergency departments in Gaziantep/Turkey.

Method: This was a descriptive cross-sectional study. The sample of the study consisted of 111 nurses who were voluntary to participate in the study. The data of this study were collected through face-to-face interview technique by using personal information and questionnaire form that was prepared by the researchers upon the literature review.

Results: The nurses stated that they were most commonly stuck by a needle (83.8%) and noise (54.1%); whereas, they stated that the most common psychological factor faced by them was verbal abuse by patients and/or patient relatives (81.1%), the most common chemical factor faced by them was being subjected to disinfectants (64.0%), and the most common biological factor faced by them was being subjected to viral infections (48.6%). More than half of the nurses (64.9%) had complaints of waist and back aches. It was determined that the nurses who were working at emergency departments for 1-3 years experienced more problems of discal hernia in a statistically significant manner (50.0%) ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions: It was determined that nurses working at emergency department faced with occupational factors and risks during work and experienced many health problems related to these factors and risks.

Key Words: Occupational health problems, emergency department, nurse, occupational factors, environment