

PS1.179

The violence of patients with psychiatric disorders against healthcare worker

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Background & Aim: Patient violence is a serious problem in Turkey because of the high prevalence. Healthcare workers are often abused from psychiatric and emergent patients. Although patient violence causes serious physical injuries and psychological trauma at the healthcare workers, but unfairly, administrative improvements are not going along with the scientific improvements, thus these situations are not documented.

The aim of this study is to find out the kind and the frequency of violence of patients against health care workers

Method: In this study both, qualitative and quantitative methods are used. In qualitative research; focus group and in-depth interviews had been used for data collection. Inquiry has been established by two researchers after phenomenological analysis of decoded interviews. Quantitative section of the study has a cross-sectional analytic model. Inquiry had been used for the quantitative research. The survey was conducted in psychiatry department of 5 university and state hospital in region of Aegean in Turkey. In these departments 213 health workers are working. 173 have accepted to participate to the research.

Results: 74.7 percent of the participants were women, where 19.5% were academician, 24.7% residence, and 55.8% were nurse. 87.6% of the participants had physical, 92.4% of the participants had verbal abuse and 35.7% had sexual violence in their occupational life in psychiatry. Besides; 74.9% had verbal and 59.8% had physical violence from the patients' families. 63.8% of doctors and nurses have declared that they were not responsible of the violence. 74.2% of nurses had said that in the psychiatric clinics they could be faced with the crime just like on a street.

Conclusions: Patient violence healthcare workers against is a major problem in occupational life. The health care workers take care of psychiatric patients face the risk of physical, sexual and verbal violence.