

World

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Nurse as second victim after adverse event

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Background: Nurses is being a second victim after made error. They suffered from physical and psychological symptoms followed an event. Healthcare organization has a significant role in support nurses after an event. However, little attention is paid from governmental bodies, to support the second victims.

Aim: To describe nurses' experience followed adverse events and the importance of organization for support them.

Methods: A descriptive study conducted at King Saud Medical City, a total of 355 staff nurses were selected from clinical areas. Data were collected between July 2 to Dec 5, 2017 using a self-administered questionnaire.

Results: 33.8% of the participants were involved in an adverse event in their career, and 64.2% involved with no patient harm, while 19% with fetal harm. Also, 82% experienced physical and psychological symptoms. Flashback returned to work anxiety, difficult concentration, grief and depression were the most psychological symptoms reported. Sleep disturbances, unable to relax and Sweaty palms were the most physical symptoms reported by them. 42.3% of them spent one to three weeks till they rid all symptoms. 55.2% received informal support from Head Nurse (216%), Nurse Manager (18.9%), Director of Nursing (8%) and friend/ Family. Nurses were worried a lot about what their clinical peers would think about them after the events. They have not been adequately supported by the organization (77.6%). there was no designated member of the organization guiding them after an event.

Conclusions: Adequate support can work effectively to reduce symptoms, after an event. Lack of supports can lead to emotional burden.

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