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**Workplace violence against nurses working in
emergency departments in Saudi Arabia: a
cross-sectional study**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Declaration

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Abstract

Aim: the aim of this study was to assess the prevalence, types and contributing factors of violence against nurses in emergency departments.

Background: Violence against health care workers, especially nurses is a significant concern for healthcare internationally. Emergency departments are considered high-risk areas in hospitals. Violence against nurses in EDs is a serious issue that cannot be ignored.

Method: A cross-sectional study design was conducted from June to August 2016 using convenience sample of emergency nurses in four major hospitals in Riyadh City in Saudi Arabia. The questionnaire was adapted from Kitaneh and Hamdan (2012). Chi-Square test was used to analyse the data.

Results: Four hundred and thirty-six emergency nurses responded to the questionnaire (a response rate of 71.2 %). The results showed 41.7% of respondents were exposed to both physical and non-physical violence in the workplace during the previous 12 months. The results showed that 44.7% of respondents were exposed to physical assault, 29.5% of respondents were exposed to threat, 88.1% of respondents were exposed to verbal abuse and 4.4% of respondents were exposed to sexual harassment in the last 12 months. Patients (67.7%) were identified as the most common perpetrators of physical violence, and visitors and patients' relatives (67.1%) were identified as the most common perpetrators of non-physical violence. The treatment room was the most common place where the physical and non-physical violence happened. The most common factors contributing to physical violence were mental health or psychiatric patient (38.5%) while waiting to receive service (58.9 %) contributed most to non-physical violence.

Conclusion: Understanding workplace violence is the first phase to develop or improve appropriate strategies to handle this problem. Establishing and enacting suitable laws could enhance workplace safety violence for nurses. Further research on the topic is needed.

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