



# Operating Room Nurses' Perception of Physician- perpetrated Abuse

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# Abuse in the Workplace

## Definition

- Workplace abuse is a term used to describe a broad range of unacceptable behaviours including physical violence, sexual harassment, and emotional abuse.

(Anderson, 2002; Di Martino, 2000, 2003)



Why is this particular topic  
one of interest?



# Purpose

To explore how operating room nurses perceive the effects of physician-perpetrated abuse on their health and their ability to provide patient care.



# Trends Reported in the Literature

- Terms used to describe workplace abuse
- Frequency of abuse in healthcare
- Negative effects



# Method of Research

- Qualitative Description
- Ethical Issues
- Sample and Location



# Research Findings

- Categories
  - Catalysts for abuse
  - The operating room culture
  - The effects of physician-perpetrated abuse



# Catalysts for abuse

- Position and experience of the nurse
- Issues beyond their control  
(Contextual Factors)



# The Operating Room Culture

- Environment
- Hierarchy



# The Effects of Physician-perpetrated Abuse

- Effects on the nurse
- Effects on the patient



# The Effects on the Nurse

- Psychological Effects
- Physical Effects
- Social Effects



# The Effects on the Patient

- Safety
- Surgical Access
- Increased organizational financial burden



# Recommendations

- Nursing Practice
- Education
- Future Research



# Nursing Practice

- Become pro-active
- Encourage reporting incidents
- Involve your union
- Develop support groups
- Partner with the organization to promote zero tolerance
- Insist on consequences for the abuser



# Education

- Interdisciplinary education
- Communication
- Conflict management
- Educate – zero tolerance
- Self awareness



# Where To From Here?

- Similar qualitative research across a larger geographical area
- Quantitative research determining frequency, types, and effects of physician-perpetrated abuse
- Qualitative research based on the perspective of the physicians



It doesn't matter where you  
are from!

“I believe that you can talk to  
any OR nurse anywhere  
across the country and the  
results will be the same – the  
stories will be the same”

From one of my participants

# Thank you



## Questions?

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