



Nursing care to the victim of (intentional) violence or injury: integrative literature review

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Abstract

Introduction

It is recognized worldwide that violence and its associated trauma are critical health problems. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified more than 1.3 million deaths annually as a result of violence, in all its forms, which is 2.5% of global mortality. Every day tens of millions of individuals are victims of non-fatal violence. It should be avoided and its consequences reduced, because it has a strong impact on morbidity and mortality of the population, and is considered a public health problem, due to the high number of victims it affects at the social, economic, and personal level, and is considered the fourth leading cause of death between 15 and 44 years of age.

Objective

To describe the scientific evidence through the synthesis and analysis of multiple studies on the specialized nursing intervention to victims of violence and/or intentional trauma in the emergency department (ER), as well as to identify specialized nursing intervention protocols in the situation of violence in its various aspects and know how to act in the ER with adult victims of violence and/or intentional trauma.

Method

An integrative literature review (ILR) study was conducted, and the methodological path was divided into six phases: development of the guiding question; establishment of the inclusion and exclusion criteria and of the literature search; definition of the information to be extracted from the selected studies; assessment of the included studies; interpretation of the results, and presentation of the review. The literature search was performed by means of an electronic search in MEDLINE and CINAHL databases, using the EBSCOhost search engine. In this phase no language filters or time restrictions were applied, and all studies were included. As for the inclusion criteria, we selected full articles available electronically, in Portuguese and English, from January 2016 to September 2021, which presented the proposed theme in the title, abstract or descriptors, with full text and abstract available. Exclusion criteria were letters to the editor, case reports, editorials, duplicate articles, articles published in other languages, and those that did not directly address the proposed theme.

Results

It stood out in other countries (Belgium, USA, Colombia and Brazil) the competence of nurses in acting in sexual violence (SANE). In Portugal, this competence is neither legislated nor identified, but, based on the scientific evidence presented, it was found that an improvement in the quality of care, better outcomes and more appropriate health policies on this issue.

Conclusions and implications for the development of knowledge

Health professionals must be committed to preventing, identifying, diagnosing and providing the necessary care to the person who is a victim of violence, regardless of its nature, as well as informing the competent authorities, in order to apply the necessary measures so

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that the person does not return to the locus of violence, allowing a new cycle to be restarted. In Portugal, there is still a long way to go, in line with the reality analyzed in other countries. The creation of effective intervention programs with trained health professionals, especially in the ER, may be the basis for trauma centers to include a nurse capable of providing specialized and appropriate care according to international and national guidelines.

Keywords

Nursing Intervention; Adult; Violence; Forensic Nursing; (Intentional) Trauma; Emergency Department.

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