

Investigation of occupational injuries in a tertiary hospital

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ABSTRACT

AIM: The aim of this study was the analysis of occupational accidents that were reported by the employees in the occupational health service in one University Hospital between 2013-2017.

MATERIAL AND METHOD: Data collection in this retrospective descriptive study, was performed by an anonymous questionnaire developed for this study, which was completed with information from the occupational accident forms of the years 2013-2017. Data included the activity during which the accident, the way and place of injury, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the virology check and the instructions given after the accident. Data were entered in an Excel spreadsheet, while statistical analysis was performed by SPSS-v.21.

RESULTS: There were found 505 completed occupational accident forms. Of those 73.5% happened to women, while 64.6% in the 19-35 age group. Injuries were more frequent in nursing staff (31.5%), with sharp objects (77.2%), in upper extremities (82.3%). The 76.7% of the employees used the appropriate PPE during the time the accident occurred, while 85.1% had been immunized against HBV and there

was no absenteeism in 93.7%. In all staff, except nursing, there was a reduction in the proportion of accidents in 2015-2017 compared to 2013-2014, that is following the implementation of the P.D.6/2013. A statistically significant increase in injuries from misplaced movements between the two time periods was found (from 63.2% to 73.7%, p -value=0.012), while the proportion of non-vaccinated employees against HBV was reduced (p -value=0.025).

CONCLUSION: Sharp injuries have a high incidence in health care employees. It is therefore essential to take all necessary protection and prevention measures by the responsible authorities in collaboration with employees.

KEY WORDS: Hospital, health care professionals, risk factors, occupational accidents, work health and safety, sharp injuries