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Background Information

Operating Room nurses oversee the activities of the operating room everyday. Amidst the stressful situations and organized chaos of the surgical environment, these nurses are able to consistently ensure that surgeries are on time and proceed efficiently and safely from one procedure to another.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Operating Room nurses were deployed to other departments to help provide direct patient care. With very limited training and experience in their assigned areas, most lack the confidence and skill to function as a primary nurse or caregiver for critically ill and highly contagious patients. This anxiety and fear, combined with the shortage of personal protective equipments/devices, may have a profound effect on the coping mechanisms of the mind and body of our surgical frontliners.

Study Question

This study is designed to find out the psychological problems encountered by OR nurses during the height of the Covid-19 outbreak, how they have managed to survive and how they are now, how demographics relate to these issues, and what the health care system and the government can do to protect the mental health of OR nurses and other health care professionals in the future.

Design Description and Methodology

The Design

- ❖ Observational cross sectional survey

The Target Population

- ❖ OR nurses at Stamford Health
- ❖ AORN members actively working in the clinical setting in the United States and overseas.

The Method

- ❖ A questionnaire consisting of 10 questions regarding demographics (country/state/province, age, race/ethnicity, etc.), the major/minor psychological stressor/s experienced, the coping methods/techniques used, and the aftereffects/lingering effects of the condition/s, if any.
- ❖ Towards the end of the survey, the nurses were also asked their opinions/suggestions as to what the health care system and the government can do to prevent health care providers from experiencing these issues in the future.
- ❖ Questionnaires will be collected and distributed online via Survey Monkey Link.
- ❖ Data analysis is done through Statistical Packages for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26. The demographic characteristics of the sample will be shown. Descriptive statistics for continuous variables will be provided. A histogram will display the data distribution. For categorical variables, frequency distributions, percentages, and cumulative frequencies will be presented in a tabular format and will be reflected on a pie chart/bar graph for better visualization of results.

The Face of Covid – 19 Pandemic



Discussions / Considerations

The Operating Room is considered to be the top revenue-generating machine of the hospital, securing the monetary funds that allow the organization to maintain its day to day operations, compensate and care for its manpower, acquire the necessary logistics, provide state of the art technology, support research, and render the highest standard of care possible to its patients. It is essential that the surgical care providers maintain optimal cognitive and physical health as well as a high level of psychological and emotional stability to render safe, effective, and efficient care to their patients and the community.

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