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Title of the abstract: Change in the State of Being Subject to Sharp Object Injuries: 2005-2014

Summary

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Background: The students, especially studying at health school students, due to their inadequacy in clinical experience and technical knowledge are at high risk of exposing themselves to blood-borne pathogens via needlestick and sharp injury.

Aim: This study was conducted to determine the prevalence of sharp object injuries among the second year nursing students and practices in this regard over the years.

Methodology: This is a comparative and descriptive study. Percent and chi-square were used in the evaluation of the data.

Results: The study was conducted on 56 students in 2006 and 110 students in 2014. When the years 2005 and 2014 are compared, the rates of students' reception of education concerning sharp object injuries and the inclusion of the education received in course contents are similar. However, the percentage of sharp object injuries in 2014 (71.8 %) is significantly lower than the percentage in the year 2005 (89.3 %) ($p=0.011$). No differences were found among the cases where injuries occurred (smashing a lamp, using a syringe, using surgical tools) by the years ($p>0.05$). Rates of using protective methods at the time of injury were found to be similar by the years (% 40.0-% 37.5). Causes of injuries were carelessness, haste, excessive workload and disposal of waste all in similar percentages in both years. Although there was no statistically significant difference, insufficiency of materials was lower in 2014 (0.9%). Cleaning the scar with antiseptic solution, squeezing the injured spot, and determining the source after the injury were higher in 2005 than in 2014 ($p<0.05$). There was a similarity in terms of other measures ($p>0.05$).

Conclusions: Rates of injury dropped in 2014, which can be attributed to an increase in the prevention of injuries as part of the hospital policies. However, there were more effective interventions after injuries in 2005, which can be explained by the fact that academicians may have given more effective counseling services due to a low number of students.

Key Words: nursing, student, needlestick, sharp injuries.

A short biography of the author: My name is Selda ARSLAN. I was born on 15th January 1980. I'm from Ankara. I completed my doctorate in the field of Internal Medicine Nursing in 2012. My prioritized areas of interest are oncology and rehabilitation nursing. Currently, I am an assistant professor at Selcuk University Faculty of Health Sciences.