

Review of: "Psycho-Emotional Impact of the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Health Care Workers of a Large COVID-19 European Hospital."

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Abstract

- the country where data was collected and time period when data was gathered should be specified
- provide additional details about what types of healthcare workers
- it is not accurate to say that caring for patients with COVID-19 was associated with higher stress levels in healthcare workers - findings in this area have been mixed, with some studies finding higher stress levels in healthcare workers NOT working on COVID units

Introduction

- some sentences need rewording for greater clarity. For example, "In a multicenter study conducted during the first pandemic wave on 906 employees from 6 hospitals by questionnaire collecting the prevalence of symptoms in the past month"
- adjust language in several places to reflect current expectations (for example, "participants" instead of "subjects", "women" instead of "females")
- "In another review, severe stress, depression, and anxiety symptoms were recorded in 2.2%-14.5% of all participants" - provide more details about this sample

Subjects and Methods

- in the abstract, you say "mailed" and then here you say "emailed". Use consistent terminology throughout
- What is intended by the term "Work interface"? Provide further details
- the authors need to list what sociodemographic data was sought from participants
- it is stated that data was collected in the summer of 2020 - please provide the month(s)

Results

- it is unclear how the data included in table 5 was collected. Is this "work interface"? Provide more details. Were participants allowed to generate their own content or were they given a preselected list?
- how was it determined who required clinical psychological counseling? Likewise, how were decisions made for

participants in the following sentence: “Of these, 22 workers had only one psychological interview, and 29 were taken in for ongoing psychological support.”

Discussion

- “at the end of the first COVID-19 pandemic phase” - please specify month/year
- “figures of approximately 30% of the study sample compared to 25%” - where does the comparison number come from?
- “On the other hand, our results appear to disagree with some literature studies showing a prevalence of psychological effects in nurses and support workers” - sentence requires clarification. A higher prevalence? Also, several studies worldwide have shown greater levels of stress among nurses
- “Our sample showed little inclination to seek psychological support; only 51 workers indeed agreed to psychological counseling, most of whom had previously contracted SARS-CoV-2 infection. We cannot exclude that such an event can have conditioned their option, as it is known that COVID-19 can leave clinical sequelae, including psychological symptoms” - the workers decided not to engage in counseling because they had contracted COVID? This requires clarification.