

“Healthcare professionals have a high risk of needlestick and sharps injuries (NSIs), which have a high potential for disease transmission. Ambulatory care follow up is essential, but is usually overlooked.” Wang et al (2014).

Reference:

Wang, S.G., Hung, C.T., Li, S.F., Lu, Y.C., Chang, S.C., Lee, H.M., Pai, L.W., Lai, F.I., Huang, Y.W. and Chung, Y.C. (2014) Incidence of ambulatory care visits after needlestick and sharps injuries among healthcare workers in Taiwan: A nationwide population-based study. The Kaohsiung Journal of Medical Sciences. 30(9), p.477-83.

Follow-up visits after needlestick injuries among healthcare workers [#ivteam](http://ctt.ec/dlyW5+@ivteam)

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Abstract:

Healthcare professionals have a high risk of needlestick and sharps injuries (NSIs), which have a high potential for disease transmission. Ambulatory care follow up is essential, but is usually overlooked. This study aimed to investigate the annual and cumulative (age-, sex-, and subtype-specific) incidences of ambulatory care visits after NSIs. This study was also designed to evaluate the incidences of blood-borne diseases associated with NSIs among Taiwanese health professionals in Taiwan between 2004 and 2010. Data were obtained from the National Health Insurance Research Database, which contains anonymized records representing approximately 99% of the Taiwan population. A total of 4443 nurse healthcare workers (NHCWs) and 3138 non-nurse healthcare workers (NNHCWs), including physicians, medical technologists, and other health professionals were included in this longitudinal study. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated. The Mantel-Haenszel method was used to adjust for sex, age, and type of affiliation. Results showed that the annual incidence of ambulatory care visits of NHCWs increased from 0.7% in 2004 to 1.9% in 2010; this incidence was significantly higher than that of NNHCWs (from 0.3% in 2004 to 0.5% in 2010) in any yearly comparison ($p < 0.05$). The sex-adjusted 7-year cumulative incidence rate was 3.23 (95% CI = 1.23-8.45) in males and 3.92 (95% CI = 2.70-5.69) in females ($p < 0.05$). The age-adjusted 7-year cumulative incidence rate was 2.74 (95% CI = 1.99-3.77) and 2.14 (95% CI = 1.49-3.07) in subjects ≤ 30 and ≥ 31 years old, respectively ($p < 0.0005$). The affiliation-adjusted 7-year cumulative incidence rate was 1.89 (95% CI = 1.21-2.94) in medical centers and 3.33 (95% CI = 2.51-4.41) in nonmedical

centers ($p < 0.01$). In conclusion, NSIs increased steadily from 2004 to 2010 in Taiwan with NHCWs having higher NSIs incidences than NNHCWs. A routine ambulatory care visit after NSIs can prevent blood-borne transmission, especially for NHCWs. Educational programs may be helpful for reducing the incidence of NSIs and increasing ambulatory care visit ratios after NSIs.

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