



MEDICAL MISTAKES AND
DEATHS IN THE U.S. HOSPITALS

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MEDICAL MISTAKES: INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Medical mistakes belong to one of the main problems in the practice of the healthcare workers and are associated with high level of distress.
- ❖ The impact of the errors on the physicians can be perceived for years.
- ❖ In one of the recent studies, at least one major medical mistake during the year was reported in case of 34% of participants (West et al., 2006).
- ❖ One of the main sources of errors is the burnout, which comes from tension in some medical professional (surgeon).
- ❖ 8.9% of the surgeons reported major medical errors (Shanafelt et al., 2010).
- ❖ The main attention, however, should be paid to cardiovascular disease and cancer because these are the main reasons of death in the U.S. hospitals.

MAIN POINTS TO CONSIDER

- ❖1. Causes of typical medical mistakes. It is the third leading cause of death. It is important to take into account the errors from the side of physicians as well as from the aspect of nurses. The most common errors are inappropriate dosage and infusion rate.
- ❖2. Impact of medical mistakes globally. Even though patient safety has emerged as a primary goal for healthcare improvement, the mistakes are still very common in ICUs.
- ❖3. How to avoid falling into the trap of poor medical treatment. Patients should be as aware of the potential failures as the doctors and nurses.

DEATHS FROM MEDICAL MISTAKES

- ❖ 12.6% of the deaths after the operations can be the result of the medical errors (Shanafelt et al., 2010).
- ❖ The topic is significant as medical mistakes belong to the third leading reason for death in the United States of America (Makary, & Daniel, 2016).
- ❖ The audience of the topic are healthcare professionals and patients.
- ❖ The purpose of the topic is to underline the main reasons of death in the U.S. hospitals.
- ❖ Medical mistakes can occur either on the system or the individual level.
- ❖ The harm can come from mistake itself or its consequences.

NO 1 AND 2 CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE U.S.

- ❖ The medical errors are not the main reason for death in the United States.
- ❖ The cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the main cause of death globally (Smith et al., 2012).
- ❖ During the year, CVD accounts for about 17.3 million of deaths in the world (Smith et al., 2012).
- ❖ The second major cause of death is cancer.
- ❖ The estimated cases of death in 2016 are 314,290 for male population and 281,400 for the female population (Siegel, Miller, & Jemal, 2016).

CONCLUSION

- ❖ The main points to consider while preventing healthcare system from typical mistakes are the causes of such mistakes, their influence on the treatment, and ways to prevent patients from facing such errors. Doctors, nurses, and patients should take equal parts in the process.
- ❖ Although there is no proof plan to avoid becoming a victim of medical mistakes, health care professionals should realize their roles and define the types of mistakes properly to reduce the number of occasional deaths. Communication is one of the most effective tools used to prevent such outcomes.
- ❖ The patients should take active part in discussing their diagnoses and further treatment too.
- ❖ There are higher risks to the health of the US population than medical mistakes. The most common threats are diseases like cancer. So, it is even more important to study them instead of focusing on errors only.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- ❖Q.: What are the main reasons of death in the U.S. hospitals?
- ❖A.: CVD, cancer and medical mistakes.
- ❖Q.: What is the percentage of death from the medical mistakes?
- ❖A.: 12.6% of patients' deaths after the operations.
- ❖Q.: How many people die from cancer and CVD?
- ❖A.: About 17.3 million of deaths in the world from CVD and 314,290 for male population and 281,400 for the female population for cancer.

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