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Psychological impact of the covid-19 pandemic on health care professionals: A cross sectional analysis of three sets of data

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Aims

Health Care Workers (HCW) have had to deal with mental health-related stressors during the COVID-19 pandemic and exhibited higher rates of anxiety, depression, insomnia, and post-traumatic stress symptoms. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health of a sample of hospital HCWs was assessed over time, relating to quality of life, post-traumatic growth, burnout, sleep changes, and resilience.

Methods

An online, three-phase, survey was sent to the whole working population of the University Hospital of Modena, covering 12 months (baseline questionnaire sent in June 2020). Sociodemographic and behavioral information related to COVID-19 were collected, together with screening for anxiety, depression, stress, and post-traumatic symptoms. A multivariate analysis was conducted to analyze changes across time.

Results

457 HCWs completed all three stages of the survey, M/F ratio: 28.0/71.9%. Anxiety and stress were significantly associated to having been in direct charge of COVID+ patients (anxiety OR = 2.22, 95% C. I. = 1.06–4.78, p-value = 0.04; stress OR = 2.03, 95% C.I. = 1.05–3.95, p-value = 0.04). Stress was associated to perception of increased workload both at baseline (OR = 1.79, 95% C.I. = 1.02–3.18, p-value = 0.05) and at first follow-up (OR = 1.97, 95% C.I. = 1.08–3.73, p-value = 0.03). Significant changes over time were registered as to increased alcohol consumption and a more imbalanced diet.

Conclusion

Results are helpful to guide support interventions and organizational actions to improve the well-being and functioning of HCWs.

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Stress and resilience in the workers of three health authorities of Emilia-Romagna during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Aims

The aim of the present study was to study the prevalence of depression, anxiety, stress, and post-traumatic symptoms in Health-Care Workers (HCWs) of three Health Authorities of Emilia-Romagna, Italy during the COVID pandemic.

Materials and methods

An online questionnaire was spread to the staff of the University Hospital of Modena and the Local Health Agencies of Modena and Romagna, including the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS-21), the Impact of Event Scale - Revised (IES-R), and the Utrecht Work Engagement Scale - Short Version (UWES-9). The scores at DASS-21 and IES-R were used as dependent variables in multivariate logistic regression models.

Results

A total of 5868 HCWs were reached (response rate of 22.4%), 76.1% of which were women, mostly aged between 45 and 54 years. Rates of positive scores were: 27.9% DASS-21 Depression; 28.4% DASS-21 Anxiety; 34.7% DASS-21 Stress; 21.9% IES-R. At the multivariate logistic regression, the following were statistically significant risk factors for positive scores: female sex, young age, and working at the front line. An increase in alcohol and tobacco consumption and worsening of eating habits were also strongly associated with symptoms. At UWES-9, the three samples reported lower vigor than dedication and absorption, which are at a mediumhigh level.

Conclusions

HCWs have experienced high levels of emotional distress related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Significant improvements are needed not only in terms of organization and distribution of resources, but also in provision of dedicated psycho-social interventions.

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Postpartum screening results in Ontario, Canada before and after the COVID-19 pandemic: An interrupted time-series analysis J. Fiedorowicz^a, Y. Jin^a, D. Corsi^b, N. Roberts^c, A. Sprague^d, M. Solmi^a, G. Saraf^a, J. Gandhi^a, I. Colman^a, M. Walker^a

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Aims

This study examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mothers or childbearing parents using ongoing, systematic screening of a representative Ontario sample.

Methods

An interrupted time series analysis was conducted on data captured in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) screening tool to determine effects of the pandemic on relationships, support, mental health, and related clinical outcomes at the time of postpartum discharge from hospital. The ability to parent or care for the baby/child and other psychosocial and behavioural outcomes were assessed.