Surgical Smoke, Me and My Circle

Seher Ünver, PhD
Research Assistant, Trakya University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Surgical Nursing, Edirne, Turkey

Sacide Yıldızeli Topçu, PhD
Lecturer, Trakya University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Surgical Nursing, Edirne, Turkey

Ümmü Yıldız Findik, PhD
Associate Professor, Trakya University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Surgical Nursing, Edirne, Turkey

Correspondence: Seher Ünver Trakya University University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Surgical Nursing, Edirne, Turkey E-mail: seher.unver@hotmail.com

Abstract

Background: Surgical smoke can cause some problems such as headache, nausea, irritations to the eyes and respiratory tract on nurses working in the operating room.

Aims: The aim of this study is to determine the status of the exposure to the surgical smoke, the negative effects of it and the responses taken from family-members.

Methodology: This study was carried out between April 1st-May 20th 2013 on 54 nurses working in operating room units at two big university hospitals.

Results: There was any smoke evacuation device in both hospital operating rooms and aspiration catheters were used instead of them. The most negative effect was throat irritation and there was a significant difference between being scrub and having this effect (p<0.05). Nurses had these effects 50% after electro-surgeries and 62.7% of their family-members gave any feedback about surgical smoke when they return home.

Conclusions: The results of this study demonstrated that aspiration catheters used as an alternative smoke evacuating method are not effective and complete evacuation of surgical smoke is necessary.

Keywords: Family; Nurses; Operating rooms; Smoke; Surgery