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ABSTRACT

Operating theatres are perceived as a very stressful environment for nurses. Do the job stressors relate to ill-health? This study was concerned with the work-related stressors which perceived by the operating theatre nurses, the ranking of the most stressful factor which theatre nurses agreed and the relationship between the stressors and ill-health.

This study was carried out in the operating theatre of Kwong Wah Hospital. All the theatre nurses were invited to fill in a questionnaire and a response rate of 96% was achieved. The results showed that the most stressful factor was 'criticism from nursing superior'; the highest ranking for category of stressors was 'knowledge and skills'. The results also showed there was a relationship between five stressor categories and ill health, except the category of work environment.

The findings were useful for the nurse administrators, managers and educators to reduce the stress factors in the operating theatre and help to design well-planned programmes or in-service training for theatre nurses to enhance their work performance.