Directions and Possibilities in the Development of Forensic Nursing in Japan;

A Questionnaire Survey among Clinical Nurses

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INTRODUCTION  Part 1

Forensic nursing (FN) is an area that has been developed in North America in 1980s to protect human rights of serious crime victims.

Since serious crimes are becoming more common in Japan, opportunities for forensic nursing is expected to expanding.
Because the concept of FN is not well-known in Japan, characteristics that are specific to FN has not been necessarily executed.

So we carried out a questionnaire survey among 581 clinical nurses to investigate the knowledge of FN in Kyushu area, Japan.
SITUATION OF CLINICAL NURSES IN JAPAN

✓ The knowledge of FN • • • 16%

✓ Prevalence of nurses who encountered patients suffering from serious violence • • • 56.3%

✓ FN cases were most often found among clinical psychiatry and emergency departments.
Number of Cases Reported among 9 Kyushu Hospitals (n=581)

- Domestic violence: 164 cases
- Drug use: 125 cases
- Child abuse: 108 cases
- Elderly abuse: 94 cases
- Violent assault: 84 cases
- Sexual assault: 42 cases
- Religious assault: 12 cases
- Other: 4 cases

Reported Cases (multiple answers)
How do you think about your involvement in forensic nursing?

- Would like to be involved in forensic nursing, but are not confident enough about the knowledge and techniques: 45.4%
- Would like to be involved but is beyond my capacity: 24.8%
- Can meet the social expectations well: 18.8%
- Do not want to become involved in such cases: 10.0%
- other: 2.8%
- Would like to be involved in forensic nursing, but are not confident enough about the knowledge and techniques: 45.4%
Willing to attend forensic nursing specialized courses

- Definitely consider positively: 15.9%
- Will consider if needed: 24.9%
- Will consider if there are any chances: 55.6%
- Will not consider: 3.6%
THE NUMBER OF SPOUSAL DV IN JAPAN

1. Spousal Violence

The number of DV counseling cases
Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Center
2. Abuse of drugs

Prevalence of drug abuses over the age of 15 and more

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<th>heroin</th>
<th>MDMA</th>
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3. **Number of Child Abuse cases in Japan**

![Graph showing the number of child abuse cases in Japan from 1990 to 2009. The numbers show a significant increase over time.](image)
1. Necessity of introducing forensic nurse in Japan

- Over half of the nursing population have encountered patients related to FN
- Increased number of cases

It will become more important for clinical nurses to care FN-related patients

Psychiatry department

Emergency department

Clinical nurses will have more chances to encounter such cases
DISCUSSION  Part 2

2. How to care for patients

- Nurses encountering FN-related patients
- Nurses without experiences in FN-related patients

Would nurses need to deal with FN cases their own way?
Nurses trying to be responsible for FN cases

- Nurses feel unconfident with their knowledge and techniques
- Nurses are feeling anxious about their responsibilities

- Need to expand knowledge and technique
- Pursue more opportunities for education
Conclusions and future directions

✓ Nurses need to be well informed on how to provide better caring system for FN-related patients.

✓ It is our agenda to promote an adequate educational system for forensic nursing in Japan.