

HCiD as Violence to Physician in Korea



KMA
KOREAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

Korean Medical Association

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Assaults toward physicians

- Recently, there is a growing number of people who threaten, assault or offend physicians while receiving medical treatment at medical institutions in Korea.
- Patients and their family who are not satisfied with the treatment result visit medical institutions carrying a dangerous article. Such cases have been reported by mass media.

Cases

- A patient stabbed a psychiatrist in the abdomen at the psychiatric clinic office without reason.
- A man who were dissatisfied with his daughter's deteriorating condition after she had been treated for nausea at a hospital. While believing that there was something wrong with the doctor's prescription, he grabbed his daughter's doctor by the collar and hit the face several times. The doctor sustained injuries that required over 4 weeks to recover, and had received psychiatric treatment.

Cases



- On the way to the ER after running CT scans, a doctor got assaulted in the face and chest by a drunken patient in the elevator. The doctor got an injury in the eye and submitted his resignation over the incident after receiving psychiatric treatment.

Cases



- A doctor proposed to change the medication that this patient had been taking to regulate his blood pressure. The patient refused and wielded a knife. The doctor got stabbed in the abdomen and had emergency surgery. KMA President Moo-Jin Choo visited the ward where this doctor was hospitalized.

Cases



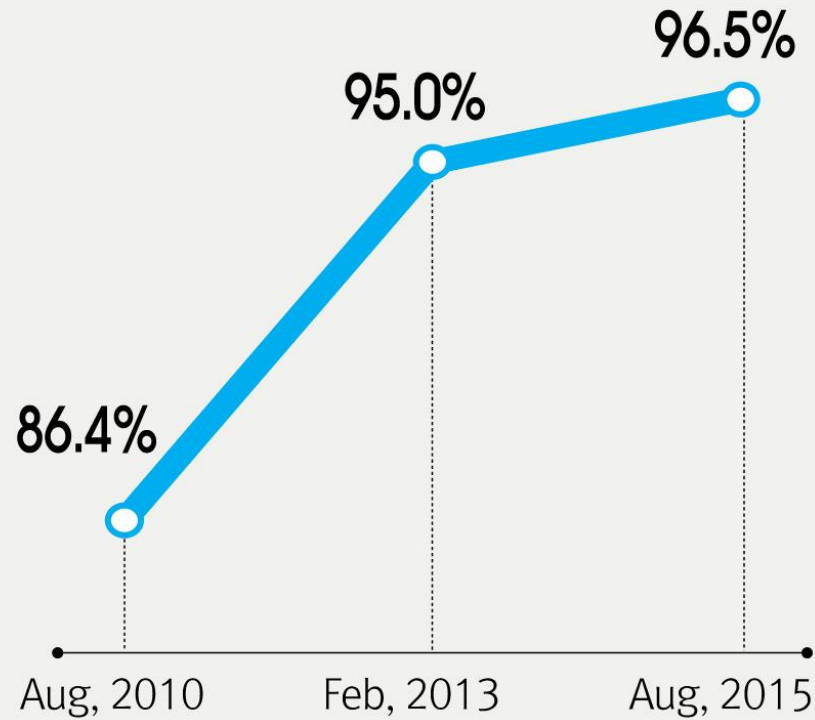
Cases

- A man in his 20's had been hospitalized to treat a heart disease for a month. During a daily ward round, this patient wielded a knife to threaten a doctor shouting that he didn't like the doctor's attitude. It turned out that the patient had a psychiatric problem.
- A patient who was waiting for his appointment kicked an orthopedist in the thighs and hit the face. The doctor was moving for an appointment with another patient.

KMA Newspaper Survey Result

(2015. August 3 ~ 18, Surveyed by: KMA Newspaper, Respondents : 539 doctors)

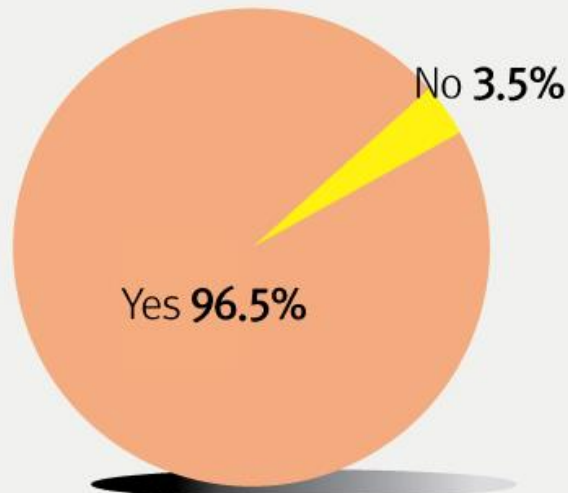
■ Yearly trends of violence experience at doctor's office



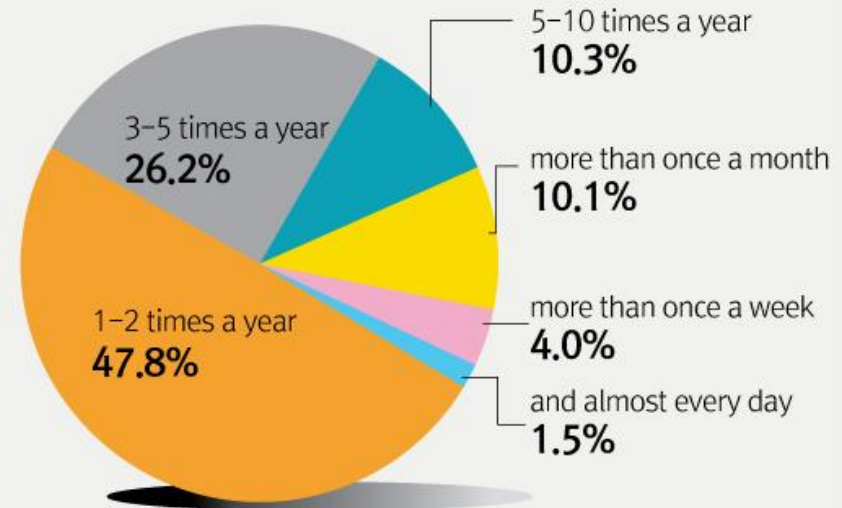
KMA Newspaper Survey Result

(2015. August 3 ~ 18)

- Have you experienced violent acts, verbal abuse or threats from patients or their caregivers at hostpitals including a doctor's office?



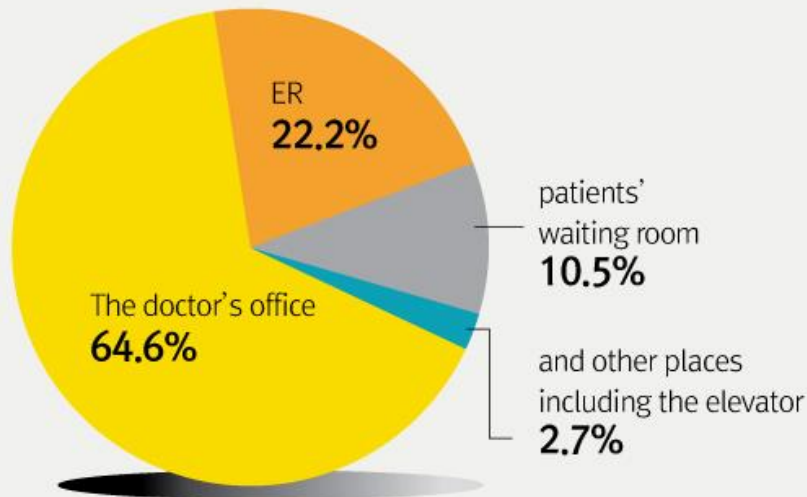
- How often have you experienced violent acts, verbal abuse or threats?



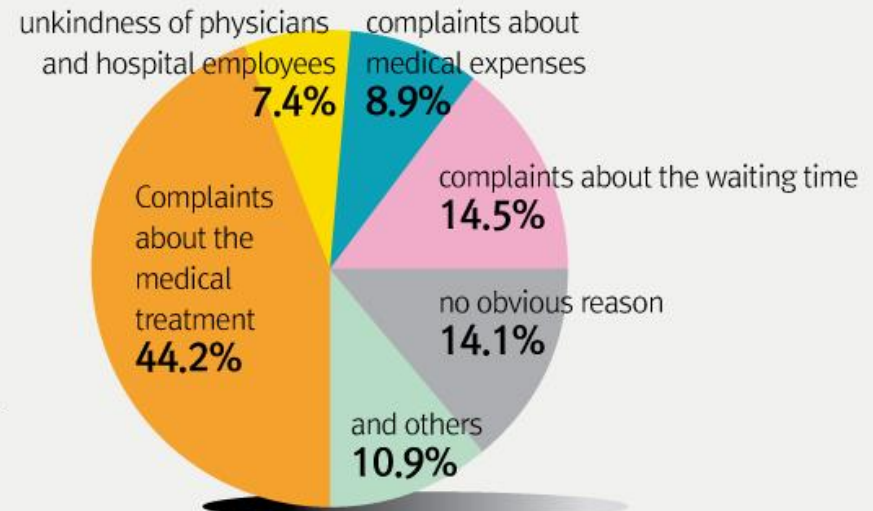
KMA Newspaper Survey Result

(2015. August 3 ~ 18)

■ Where is the location where such violent acts or verbal abuses take place?



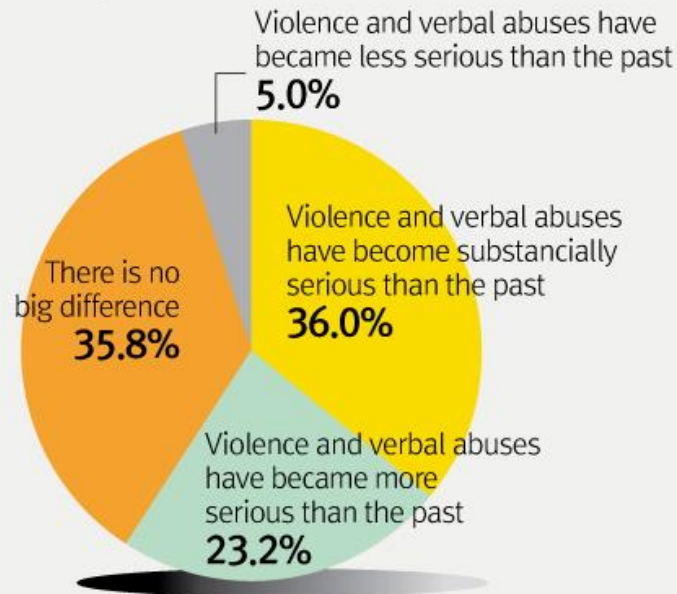
■ What is the reason for patients and their caregivers to go violent or verbally abuse?



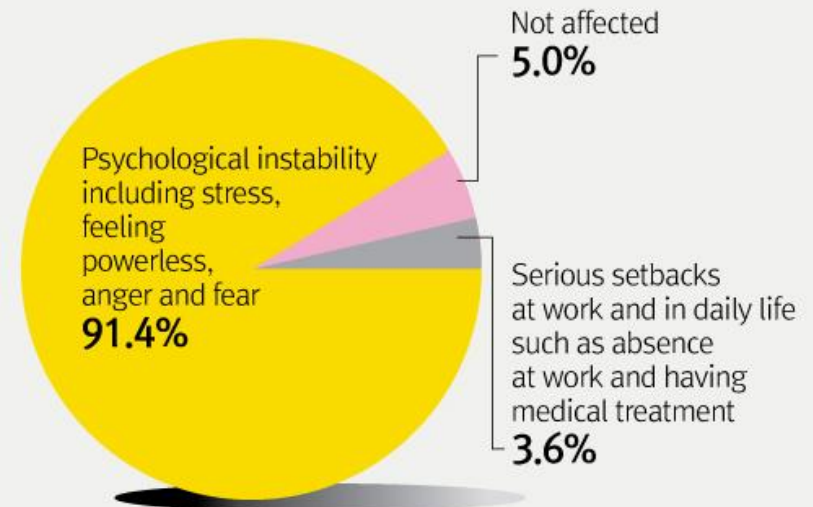
KMA Newspaper Survey Result

(2015. August 3 ~ 18)

■ Do you feel that the level of violence has changed compared to the past?



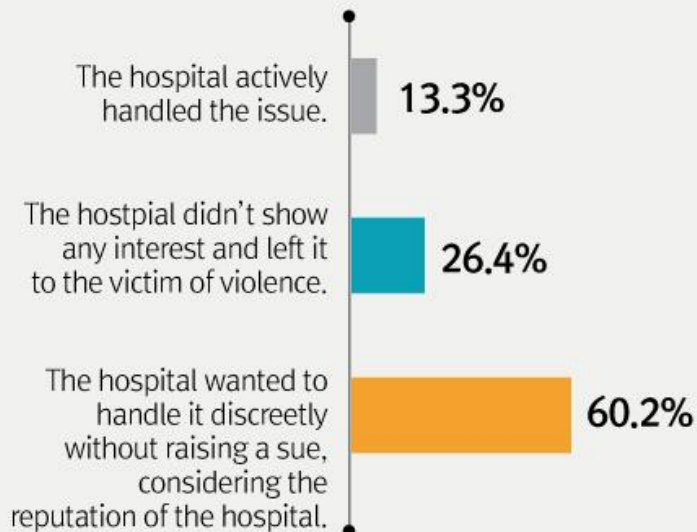
■ What kind of influence have you experienced after the violence?



KMA Newspaper Survey Result

(2015. August 3 ~ 18)

■ How did the hospital react to the violence? (in case of an employed physician)



■ How did you react when you were the target of violence? Or how will you react?



Problems

- If a physician is assaulted while conducting medical practice at a medical institution, it would be impossible to provide quality care to patients and patients' health and life could be threatened.
- Also, such violence can cause a loss of physicians, which can lead to a serious setback to provide medical service and even a vacuum of medical treatment.

Legislation

- Accordingly, the necessity strictly to regulate such violent acts against the physician when providing medical service has been highlighted.
- Recently, Korean National Assembly passed a revised bill to ban any violent or threatening act against the physician giving medical service to create a stable medical treatment system and to protect the physician's right for treatment and the patient's right of health.

Legislation

- Anyone caught violating this law will be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison or 20 million won in fines.
- Korean Medical Association (KMA) has actively provided support to the legislation activities to pass the bill.

KMA Suggestions

- **Prevention of violent acts against physicians is not just about protecting the medical professionals but also guaranteeing the continuity of the medical service to patients.**
- **This is a matter that need to be taken seriously since it sets up the minimum social safety net to protect the patient's life and safety.**

KMA Suggestions

- **KMA will continue to create a safe environment to protect the physician from any kind of violent acts.**
- **We will protect the patient's life and right of health by exerting our best efforts to provide the highest quality medical service to the public.**



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Thank you