Experiences of victims of gender based violence regarding the care and support provided by nurses in hospitals

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Women and girls worldwide are regarded as the main victims in Gender-Based Violence. Although this is a global public health problem, it is reported that South Africa has the highest incidence of gender based violence, with sexual assault being the worst form. However, as a stigmatised public health problem, it is not known how the victims of GBV experience the care and support from nurses in public health care facilities. This study was conducted to explore the experiences of women and girls exposed to gender based violence regarding the care and support provided by nurses. Following a qualitative approach, data were collected from a purposive sample of 18 participants, who were women and girls exposed to gender based violence. Audio recorded individual interviews were used to collect data, and open coding was done to derive the experiences. Women and girls had both positive and negative experiences on the care and support provided by nurses. The care and support was perceived to be adequate and inadequate, as the nurses comforted and calmed the victims down, whilst on the other hand the victims were not disclosing and therefore the nurses did not have a full picture of the extent of violence encountered to provide the necessary care and support. The findings of this study calls for strategies to ensure that adequate staff is available, and one that will also assist victims of violence to disclose.

Biography
M B Randa has completed her Master of Public Health from Medunsa and currently pursuing her PhD at Sefako Makgatho Health Science University. She is a Lecturer of Primary Emergency Care for Medical and general campus students, and final undergraduate B Cur students in General Nursing Science and Art. She has published abstracts in accredited and peer reviewed journals and written chapters in books. She also participated in the productions of video demonstrating Clinical Nursing Skills commissioned by Juta Publishers available on You Tube.

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