

Nurses, doctors report health issues tied to surgical smoke

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(HealthDay)—Nurses and doctors commonly report problems as a result

of surgical smoke exposure, but they do not take effective protective measures, according to a study published online June 27 in the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*.

Arzu Ilce, from Abant Izzet Baysal University in Turkey, and colleagues described problems experienced by 81 nurses and doctors as a result of exposure to surgical smoke. The study was conducted from April to June 2015.

The researchers found that problems reported as a result of surgical smoke exposure included headache (nurses, 48.9 percent; doctors, 58.3 percent); watering of the eyes (nurses, 40 percent; doctors, 41.7 percent); and cough (nurses, 48.9 percent; doctors, 27.8 percent). Other reported problems included [sore throat](#), bad odors absorbed in the hair, nausea, drowsiness, dizziness, sneezing, and rhinitis. The majority of nurses and [doctors](#) reported using surgical masks as a precaution (91.1 percent and 86.1 percent, respectively).

"Although most of the participants were aware of the lack of smoke evacuation systems (69.1 percent), filtration (63 percent), and a protocol (63 percent), it was found that they did not take any effective precautions, and only a few [nurses](#) used special filtration masks," write the authors.

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