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Professional burnout in British GPs: Themes and lessons

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General practitioners are a high achieving section of the population with perfectionist tendencies. Under the strain of increased work pressure, some experience professional burnout. Identifying contributory factors common to GPs who have suffered burnout may help to predict and intervene with those at risk of burnout. Five UK family doctors who have suffered burnout personally were interviewed to explore the context of their burnout experience. The interviews were analyzed qualitatively to identify common themes. Personality traits, risk tolerance threshold and situational pressure appear as prominent commonalities for these GPs as potential causes for burnout. Awareness of these characteristics may help to identify those GPs prone to burnout. Further research is required to clarify what interventions are of proven benefit in such cases.

Biography

Deen Mirza is a General Practitioner in South London. He qualified from Imperial College School of Medicine in the year 2000 and was trained to become a GP in the Croydon VTS. He has done DGM, the DCH, the DTMH and a Post-graduate certificate in Healthcare Education. He has held academic GP posts at several universities. He currently works as a Clinician and Educator at AT Medics, London, UK.

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