



Letter to the Editor

## Overwork death among doctors a challenging issue in China

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#### To the Editor,

China, as a country, is drawing the attention of the world, because overwork death among doctors has become a more serious problem. The death becomes critical social issues and contemporary health problems, challenging medical education and hospital management [1]. In our statistical analysis, from January 2007 and December 2018, the number of death was 110 cases, and most of which have occurred since 2012, especially in 2017. The mean ages of men and women were  $41.74 \pm 8.75$  years and  $34.71 \pm 8.83$  years, respectively. Of these, 78.18% doctors worked in public tertiary hospitals. Heart attack and cerebral hemorrhage were the most causes of death. Beyond our expectation, among the 110 death, chief and associate chief doctors accounted for 52.7%.

Working overload is the most serious problem, especially anesthesiologists and surgeons [2]. The imbalance of medical resources leads to numerous cities suffering from “doctor shortage”, which has forced many medical staff to work overtime. Meanwhile, the incidence of overwork death was also closely associated with social medical environment [3]. Chinese doctors face pressure beyond their medical work, such as low salary, promotion getting, paper presentation, intended doctor-patient contradiction, serious violence against doctors, which also intensified the sense of “burnout” [4,5]. Since 2018, August 19 has been established as “Chinese doctors' day” every year, which reflects the concern and affirmation for Chinese health and health workers. But these measures are far from enough.

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