

The Impact of Negligence Claims Among Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

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Introduction of Presenters and Project Interest

Elvisa Muratovic, SRNA



Meagan LaCour, SRNA



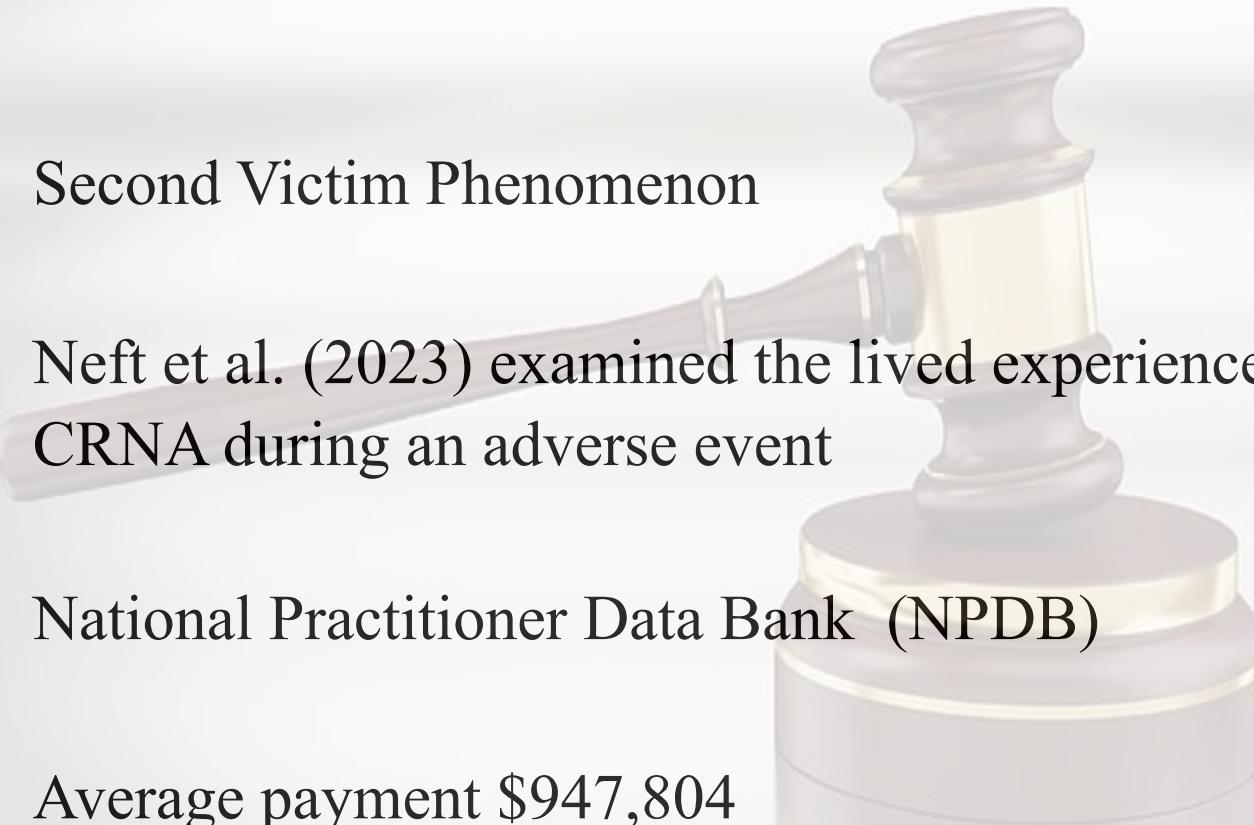
Objectives

1. Describe the second victim phenomenon.
2. Explore the impact of negligence claims on the personal and professional lives of CRNAs involved in negligence claims.
3. Identify common themes experienced among participants during the process of a negligence claim.



Background & Significance

- Second Victim Phenomenon
- Neft et al. (2023) examined the lived experience of the CRNA during an adverse event
- National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB)
- Average payment \$947,804
- AANA and Litigation Stress Syndrome
- NPDB Reporting



Aims

Primary:

The lived Experience of The CRNA

Secondary:

Themes and Recommendations



Theoretical Framework

Hybrid Phenomenological Qualitative Model



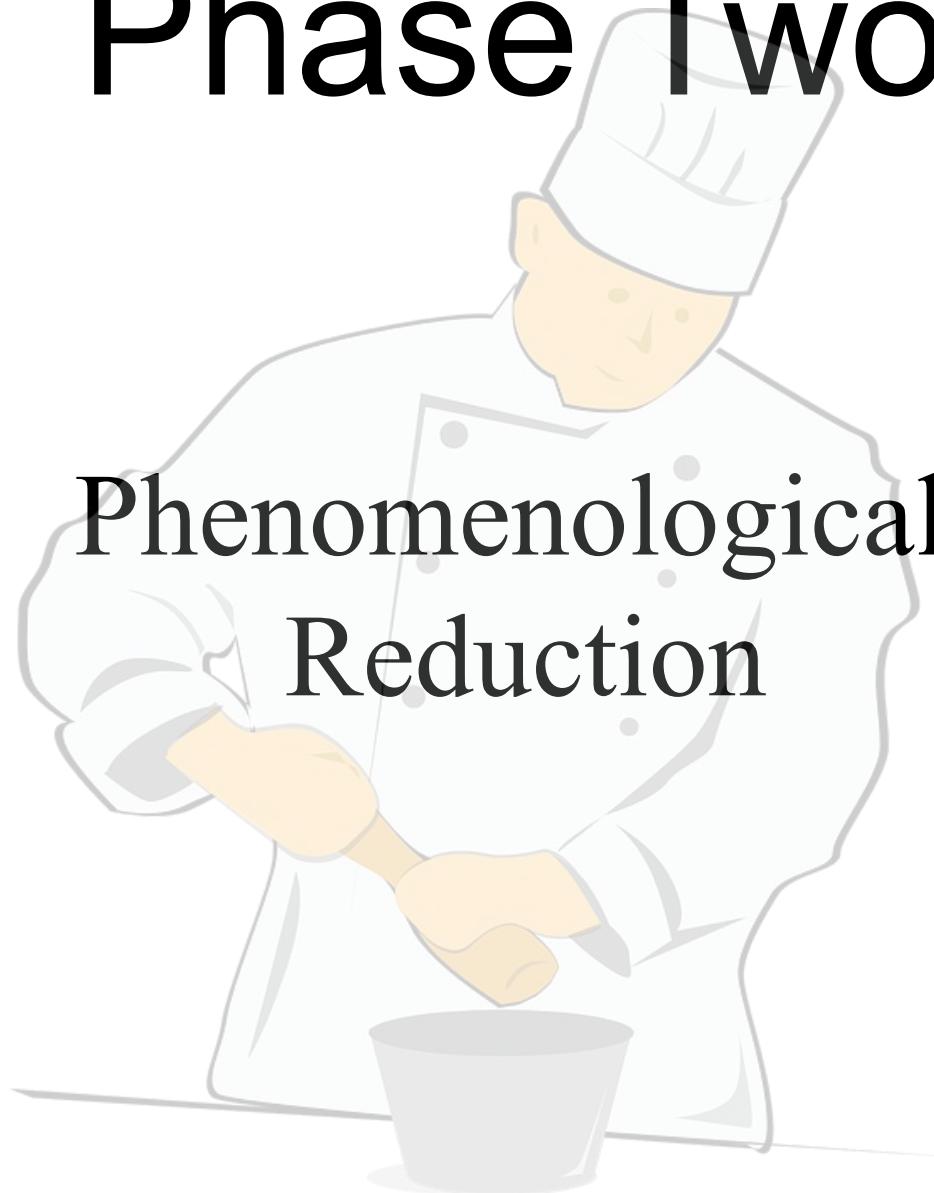
Phase One

Bracketing



Phase Two

Phenomenological
Reduction

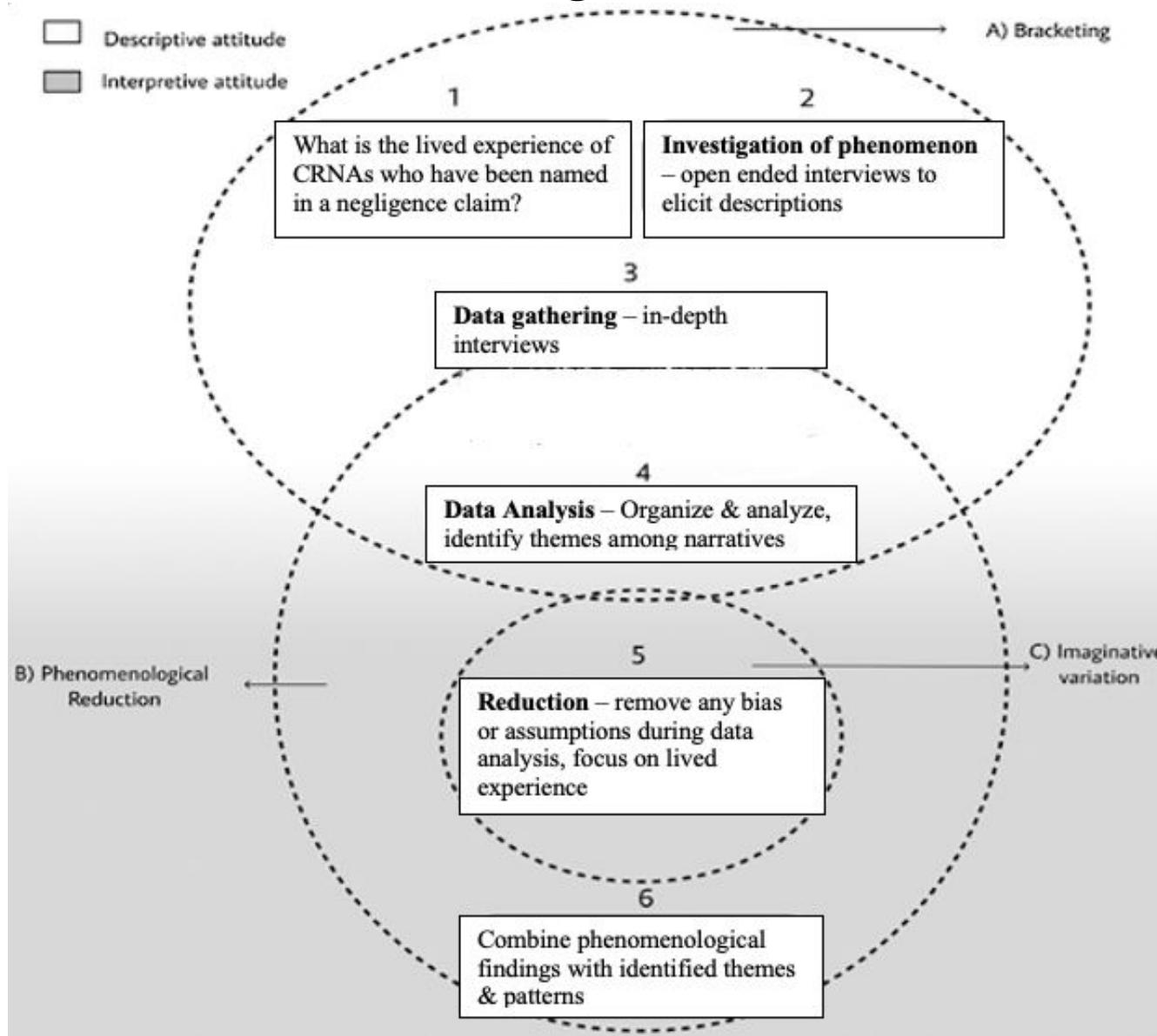


Phase Three

Imaginative Variation

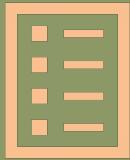


Hybrid Phenomenological Qualitative Model



Note: Adapted from Alhazmi & Kaufmann, 2022

Methods



Complete Survey
questions



Interviews conducted via
Zoom



Obtain IRB approval



Analyze data collection



Invitation email sent



Identify common themes
and develop
recommendations

Demographic Results

Characteristic	N (%)	Characteristic	N (%)
<u>Gender</u>		<u>Years of CRNA Experience</u>	
Female	10 (56)	Less than 5 years	1 (6)
Male	8 (44)	5-9	1 (6)
		10-14	1 (6)
		15-19	1 (6)
		20-24	3 (17)
		25+	10 (56)
<u>Age</u>		<u>Marital Status</u>	
18-29	0	Single (never married)	2 (11)
30-39	2 (11)	Married	16 (89)
40-49	2 (11)	Widow	0
50-59	3 (17)	Divorce	0
60-69	8 (44)	Separated	0
70-79	2 (11)		
>80	196		

Results

- 11 Participants
 - 55% Female
 - 45% Male
- Experience
 - Incidents 1991 -2002
 - Practice: 2-23 years
 - < 5 years □ 30%
*excluding 1 SRNA
 - 5-10 years □ 20%
 - > 10 years □ 50%

Results

Reported injury

46% involved death
36% minor injury
18% major injury

Coping Strategies

Alcohol
Compartmentalization
Support person



Common Themes

Stress
Sadness
Isolation
Overwhelmed

Perception

Potential plaintiffs
Defensive charting
Hypervigilance

Results

Support

Minimal support

100% reported no time off

Impact

Strained marriage

Thorough charting

Malpractice insurance

Recommendations

AANA support group

Counseling from employer

Counseling from attorney

Influence

100% no effect on career path

45% insurance type matter

55% unsure/NA

Reflections

“It’s kind of all-consuming with your life. . . You’re not involved in it every single day, but you. . . always think about it”

“Questioned my ability if I should be practicing”

“Going over and over again in my mind what I could’ve done differently, and honestly, I don’t think anything”

“It’s not career-ending”

“Recurring trauma constantly cropping up unexpectedly”

“I felt that we had done all that we could for this man”

“I felt awful, like my life was over, I felt suicidal”

“Hang in there, it’s tough. Keep your head up and continue looking forward. Do the best you can”

Patient Perception

“. . . made the realization that patients can become plaintiffs”

“It does make you second guess every single decision that you make and every single action that you make as a CRNA”

“. . . leaves a negative attitude towards patients. . . even though you are doing your best to help then and save them. . . they could sue you at the drop of a hat to get some money”

“It absolutely reduces your willingness or desire to go the extra mile or advocate for patients”

“I’m really, really strict about not bending the rules”

“I don’t question anything anymore. If I anticipate a difficult airway or extubation, I will call the MD or another CRNA”

Isolation/Support

“Difficult because you are told not to talk to anyone, and [I] did not want to get [my] spouse involved and have to testify”



“My attorney was my best support... it would be easier if there was some way that the AANA could track CRNA lawsuits and have an advocate [for them]”

“Sort of the other MDAs treated me differently during the claim, but once the claim closed, I was able to talk to them about it”

“They were irritated when they had to have someone cover my shift for trial”

“I finished court and [when it was done] I went to work at the hospital”

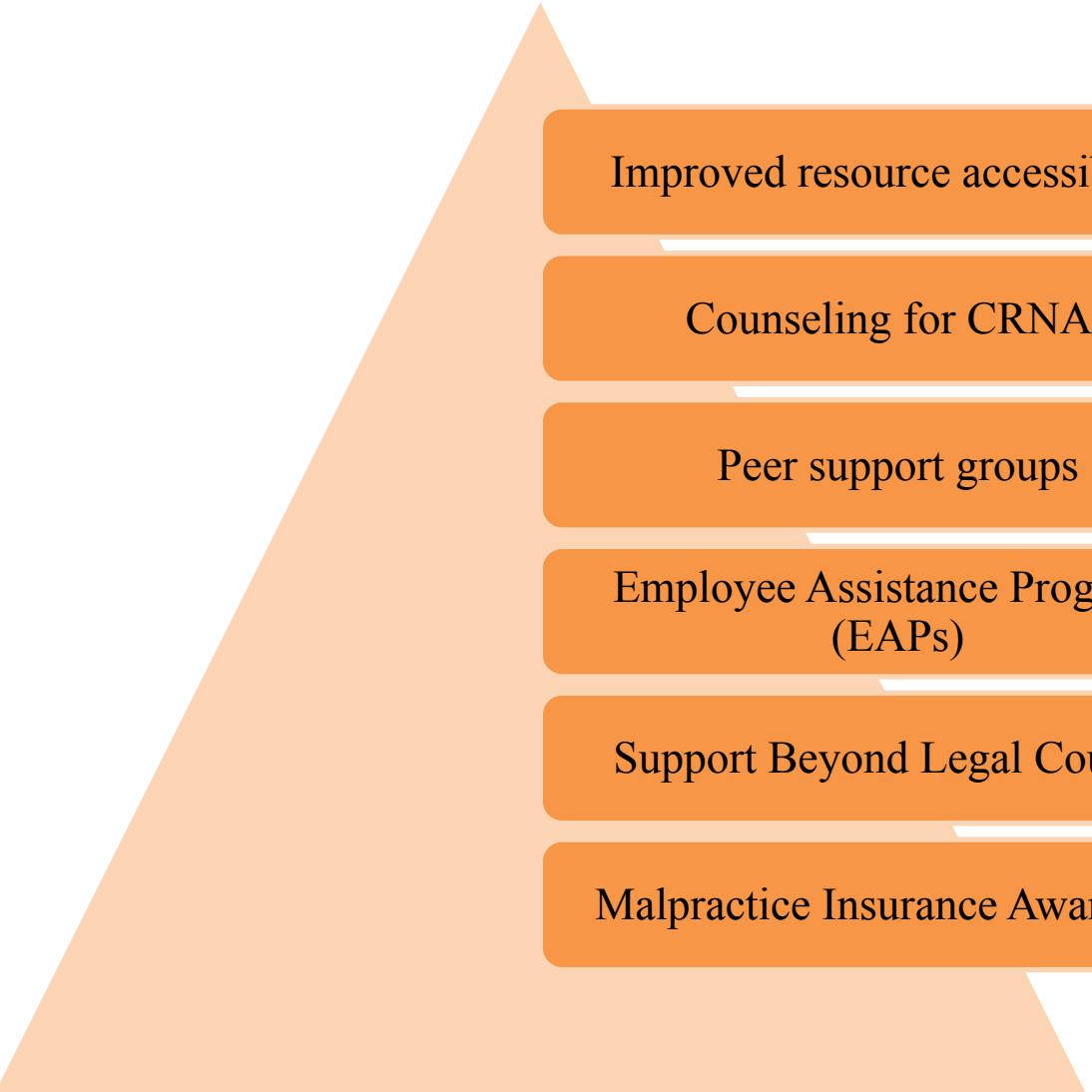
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Stated Practice Changes

Questions	Yes	No
❖ Avoiding unstable patients?	18%	82%
❖ Hesitant taking care of certain patients?	9%	91%
❖ Charting more thorough or comprehensive?	64%	36%
❖ Changed the way you consider preoperative tests? More/less	9%	91%
❖ Reduction in quantity of medication administered?	0%	100%
❖ Increase in the quantity of medication administered?	0%	100%

Clinical Impact



Improved resource accessibility

Counseling for CRNAs

Peer support groups

Employee Assistance Programs
(EAPs)

Support Beyond Legal Counsel

Malpractice Insurance Awareness

Next Steps



Stakeholder Engagement

- Direct recommendations



Spark future research

- Address limitations



Publication/ Social Media

- Raise awareness



References

