

Table 5 Opinions of nurses regarding abuse in the work environment (*n* = 447)

Opinion	Agree %	Disagree %	Don't know %
Nurses should expect to be abused some time during their career	54.1	40.3	5.6
The staffing pattern & physical set-up at work protect nurses	23.3	63.1	13.6
Abused nurses are not doing their job properly	11.4	74.0	14.6
Abused nurses are likely to be victims because of personality traits	44.7	35.8	19.5
A competent/qualified nurse can predict a violent episode	54.6	27.5	17.9
Nurses abused without injury should not report the incident	29.5	63.3	7.2
Nurses should have the right to legal action even when the abuser is a patient	62.6	18.6	18.8
Nurses taking legal action are at risk of losing their job	42.3	32.9	24.8
Patients should be responsible for all their behaviour	56.6	29.8	13.6