

## The impact of perioperative catastrophes on anesthesiologists: results of a national survey.

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Gazoni FM, Amato PE, Malik ZM, et al. The impact of perioperative catastrophes on anesthesiologists: results of a national survey. *Anesth Analg*. 2012;114(3):596-603. doi:10.1213/ANE.0b013e318227524e. <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/impact-perioperative-catastrophes-anesthesiologists-results-national-survey>

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The term "[second victim](#)" was coined to describe clinicians who are involved in medical errors, acknowledging the [emotional](#) impact errors can have on clinicians' personal and professional lives. This study surveyed anesthesiologists and found that 84% of respondents were involved in at least one serious adverse event in the perioperative setting. More than 70% reported feeling guilt, anxiety, and reliving the event, and nearly 90% required time to emotionally recover. Given that almost 20% reported that they never fully recovered, these findings reinforce the profound and often [lasting](#) impact second victims experience following medical errors. The authors advocate for better [programs](#) that support providers at the time of the event and thereafter to help manage the emotional burden involved. A past AHRQ WebM&M [commentary](#) discussed how providers recover from errors.