

DID YOU KNOW...

medical errors are now the 3rd leading cause of death in the US?

According to a worrying new report, your doctor's more likely to kill you than chronic respiratory disease. In fact, medical errors - whether that's a surgical complication or the wrong dose of medication - are now the third leading cause of death in the United States.

After analyzing eight years of official cause-of-death data, researchers have found that more than 250,000 people are killed each year in the US as a result of medical mistakes. That's 9.7 percent of all deaths in the country.

To be clear, that doesn't mean healthcare practitioners are out to get you or are intentionally harming patients. Mistakes included in the report ranged from poor communication to simple, honest-to-god accidents. But despite everyone's best intentions, the fact of the matter is that the only conditions more deadly than human error at the moment are cancer and heart disease, according to the new study.

"It boils down to people dying from the care that they receive rather than the disease for which they are seeing care," lead researcher Martin Makary, a professor of surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, told The Washington Post.

The most alarming part of all this is that, even though we've all heard the occasional horror story about someone waking up during surgery or being diagnosed with the wrong condition, by-and-large, most of us assume medical care is generally pretty safe.



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