The Effects of an Uncompleted Suicide Attempt: A Parent’s Perspective
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Introduction
• Suicide is catastrophic, devastating and ruptures the lives of those left behind.
• Suicide is the third leading cause of death in adolescents following accidents and homicides (Shain, 2016).
• Frequency of suicide drastically increases during adolescence (Dilillo, et al., 2015).
• Suicide attempts are much more common than completed suicides.
• Suicide is often a forbidden topic of discussion.
• After a child’s uncompleted suicide attempt, parents have many needs.
• There is little research examining the needs of parents after an uncompleted suicide attempt.

Learning Objectives
• Understand the problem of adolescent suicide and how parents are affected when their child makes a nonlethal suicide attempt.
• Understand how identifying the needs of parents can help decrease stigma surrounding suicide, ultimately decreasing the incidence of adolescent suicide.
• Recognize how, as health care providers, we can provide support for these parents.

Method
A literature review was conducted searching CINAHL, PubMed, and Cochrane of articles within the past 15 years

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Conclusions
• There is a lack of research examining the needs of parents after a child’s uncompleted suicide attempt.
• Stigma is a significant barrier for those with mental illness.

Implications for Practice
• Nurses should examine their own beliefs and biases regarding suicide and mental illness.
• It is vital that nurses assess factors that predict suicide.
• Nurses play an important role in reducing stigma.
• It is important that nurses provide postvention to survivors and supply them with needed resources. Postvention is prevention (Cerel, Jordan, & Deuberstein, 2008).
• Nurses can empower clients to tell their stories with dignity and courage.
• Refer families to counselling and psychoeducation programs that provide communicative and coping skills.
• It is essential that nurses are nonjudgmental, compassionate and empathetic.

References