

**Table 3 Reactions of the nurses to verbal and physical abuse**

Reaction*	Verbal abuse		Physical abuse	
	No. (n = 166)	%	No. (n = 82)	%
Do nothing	117	70.5	16	19.5
Avoid source of abuse	107	64.5	30	36.6
Report abuse to a manager	51	30.7	36	43.9
Reciprocate with similar behaviour	57	34.3	27	32.9
Loss of appetite	65	39.2	22	26.8
Perceive as a joke	29	17.5	5	6.1
Use medicine for sleeping	22	13.3	9	11.0
Go to a doctor	14	8.4	17	20.7
Avoid thinking about or talking about the attack	61	36.7	23	28
Be "super alert" vigilant and careful	96	57.8	36	43.9
Take sick leave	54	32.5	23	28

\*Not mutually exclusive.