

Violence Against the elderly : a Portuguese bibliographic review

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Abstract proposed as poster

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Background

The aging population and structural changes in the family increases loneliness among elderly people. Stressful relationships with children may turn against the elders resulting in violence; this phenomenon is rising not only in Portugal but also abroad. The Portuguese situation was reviewed based on literature.

Research question

How is elderly abuse being reported in Portuguese literature ?

Methodology

The last 10 years of 6 journals published in Portuguese language were reviewed, including public health, primary care, nursery care and social services literature. A total 217 journal editions were searched for articles mentioning violence against elderly. If the article contained reference to violence against other groups they were excluded.

Results

We identified 14 papers. Somewhat less than half (6, 42,9%) were based on document analysis from police or victims support records and one emergency department; two (14,3%) papers were bibliography reviews and

a structured enquiry and interview. Remaining (4, 21,4 %) were reflexion papers about the topic.

The age used to define elderly victims was for some papers 60 or 65 of age; different typologies were used (violence; elderly abuse; mistreatment)

Abuse is more often perpetrated in private homes, among elderly living with other persons, relatives or not; the offender usually is a relative of the victim. Handicapped people are more often victims. Some of the researchers found links with alcohol or drugs consumption but others not.

Although elderly violence should receive a multi-sectorial approach authors agree that most first presentations are to primary health care workers, who do not identify the real reason for encounter.

Conclusions

The variety of used definitions requires a consensus development process. Concepts, task definitions, identification strategy and multi- sectorial collaboration are other targets for consensus procedure on Elderly Abuse in IMOCAFV

Questions to the audience

What elements about primary health care and elderly abuse need to be maintained for international consensus development ?

What training curricula in other countries contain systematically family violence and in particular elderly abuse ?

Is there interest in other countries to work on this topic together with the IMOCAFV EUROPREV EGPRN project ?

Bibliographic References

Paraibo PMF; Silva MCM (2015) – Perfil de Violência contra a pessoa Idosa na cidade de Recife-PE RBGerit Gerontol 18(4) 755-760
Guimarães APF; Gorios C et al (2018)Notificação de Violência intrafamiliar contra a mulher idosa na cidade de S. Paulo 21(1) 91-97

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