

Violence against elderly: PHC workers' training needs

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Abstract proposed for poster session

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Introduction

Violence against elderly is a complex and multifactorial phenomena, which is increasing not only in Portugal , but all over the world¹. Usually the first contact of the victim of violence is in the PHC services²

Research question

Are the PHC workers trained to identify victims of violence ?

Methodology

The authors run a 10 years (2010-2018) systematic review of 6 journals published in Portuguese language (Brazilian J on Geriatric and Gerontology; Journal of Ageing and Innovation – multidisciplinary J.; Portuguese J of Family Medicine and General Practice, Portuguese J of Public Health, Referência – Portuguese nursing journal and Análise Social – a multidisciplinary Portuguese journal, but mainly sociology) (217 editions were reviewed).

The key words were: Violence against elderly; PHC workers, Training

Results

We reviewed 217 editions; we found 14 (6,5%) papers talking about violence against elderly; from the 14 papers only 3 (21,4%) talked about PHC constraints and training needs to coop with violence victims.^{2,3,4}

All authors agree that the PHC workers needs to be trained about violence against elderly and domestic violence, because there is a gap of both undergraduate and post graduate training, although the prevalence of violence is increasing. The main constraints are to detect signals of violence, to refer it and to follow victim and aggressor.

The violence prevalence is changing and also its nature raising new questions and new difficulties in practice.

Conclusions

Training of the PHC workers is essential as they are the first (and sometimes the only one) contact with victims of violence. As most violence is perpetrated by relatives the PHC professional, knowing well the family dynamics, may contribute to prevention of the violence. Social and health authorities as well the universities must include in the curricula topics about violence.

Bibliographic References

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