Domestic Violence in Pregnancy: Unattended Problem in Prenatal Care.

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OBJECTIVES

- To identify the magnitude of domestic violence in pregnancy
- To determine the extent to which prenatal care services have addressed domestic violence in pregnancy
- To determine the different methods of approach used to detect domestic violence
- To determine the effectiveness of these methods

Why prenatal care and domestic violence?

- Existence of the problem during pregnancy
- Indirect association with adverse pregnancy outcome
- Pregnant women use health services regularly, it is thus an opportunity window for management and prevention
- May improve maternal and foetal outcome.

TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Physical: slapping, punching, shoving kicking, choking.
- Sexual: when a man forces his partner to have sexual intercourse with him against her will.
- Threats: throwing or breaking things, swearing and threatening to harm.

Prevalence of domestic violence in pregnancy

No.	Yr.	Desn.	phy	sex	Emot.
1.	1992	Cr.sec	32	-	68
2.	1995	C.c	20	25	-
3.	1996	Coh.	16	-	-
4.	1998	Coh	30	-	66
5.	1998	Coh.	10	5	14
6.	1999	Cr sec	50	-	_

Methods used to detect domestic violence in pregnancy

- Specially designed questionnaire: Abuse Assessment Screening form - Detection rate 3 folds compared to standard form.
- Need assessment among health workers.
- Training of health workers
- Evaluation

CONCLUSIONS (1)

- Domestic violence is a widespread public health problem
- Prenatal services especially in developing countries have not taken the challenge
- Training health workers on detection and management of victims of domestic violence is a basic requirement

CONCLUSIONS (2)

 Methods of intervention used in industrialised countries may not apply to poor resource countries due to differences in social economic structure and cultural differences.

RECOMMENDATIONS (1)

- More research is needed to determine the magnitude of domestic violence in pregnancy in resource poor areas.
- Intervention programmes to include:
 Training of health workers

-Screening for domestic violence as part of prenatal care.

-Screening tool should be standardised preferably according to cultural set up

RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

- Holistic approach of victim management
- Male involvement
- Gender training in schools.
- PROMOTE
 EDUCATION FOR
 GIRLS.

AND

EDUCATION FOR
 ALL

