



## Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



### Prevalence and Correlates of Elder Abuse and Neglect in Geriatrics Psychiatry Service.

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#### REFERENCE

Vida, S., Monks, R. C. & Des Rosiers, P. (2002). Prevalence and Correlates of Elder Abuse and Neglect in Geriatrics Psychiatry Service. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 47(5), 459-467.

#### TEXT TYPE

**Format:** Scientific article

**Content:** Empirical

#### DISCUSSED THEMES

Definition, extent of the phenomenon, forms of mistreatment at home, vulnerabilities, profile of the mistreatment person, organization of services.

#### GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This primary purpose of this study is to determine the prevalence and correlates of four types of neglect and violence suffered by older adults monitored by the Montreal General Hospital Division of Geriatric Psychiatry during a calendar year.

#### PROBLEM

Mistreatment against older adults is a significant social problem in Canada and in the past decades, several research projects have been focusing on the subject, reporting a prevalence ranging from 1% to 10% depending on the studies. However, little data are currently available on mistreatment among users of geriatric psychiatric services.

#### METHODOLOGY

A cross-sectional retrospective chart review was conducted on 126 new patients of the Montreal General Hospital Division of Geriatric Psychiatry during a full calendar year. After collecting data through medical records and various diagnostic and psychometric tests, it was possible to begin the analysis and compare abused and nonabused groups.

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## RESULTS

According to the study results, violence or negligence would be suspected or confirmed in 20 patients (16 %) out of 126. More specifically, 13% of older adults whose record was studied would be the victim of financial exploitation, 6% of negligence, 4% of emotional abuse, 2% of physical violence and 6% of multiple forms of violence. Moreover, it seems that patients living with friends or people who are not part of their family as well as widowed, divorced or separated persons are at greater risk of experiencing mistreatment. Female gender, alcohol addiction, behavioural problems and chronic cognitive impairment have emerged such as non-significant trends.

## DISCUSSION

This study has several limitations, especially the nonblinded retrospective design, the clinical sample, the small sample size as well as the lack of structured instruments or screening policy for multiple variables. Results are consistent with other studies that have reported the association between mistreatment and a poor social network as well as caregiver social isolation. In addition, the association between mistreatment and female gender could be explained by the fact that they live longer and marry earlier. As for alcohol, results are consistent with other studies that have established an association between mistreatment and caregiver alcohol abuse, but also between caregiver alcohol abuse and care receiver alcohol abuse. Results also confirm the results of previous research that have shown an association with mistreatment and functional disability and cognitive impairment of the older adult.

## CONCLUSION

Violence against older adults is a common problem among patients who require geriatric psychiatry services and certain situations may pose a higher risk. Services would therefore benefit from a multidisciplinary expertise and resources available for dealing with such situations.

## AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

In addition to forms of mistreatment, it is important to assess the general context of the situation in order to properly guide interventions at the social, psychiatric, psychosocial or judicial level.

## DRAFTING DATE

December 12, 2013

