Intimate partner violence in male and female patients living with HIV

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“Intimate partner violence" describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy.

(Saltzman et al 2002)
Background

- Dhairyawan et al 2012 – IPV in HIV+ve women, prevalence and associated factors

- Autumn BHIVA 2012 – Prof Charlotte Watts highlights link between IPV and HIV


Objectives

1. To estimate prevalence of all patients attending our HIV clinic and their associations
2. To assess clinician attitudes before and after study
3. To assess patients attitudes on being asked about IPV.
Partner Violence Screen

Partner violence screen  Patient consented yes/no

- Have you been hit, kicked, punched or otherwise hurt by someone within the past year? Yes/no
- Or ever in your lifetime yes/no
- Do you feel safe in your current relationship? Yes/no/not in a relationship
- Is there a partner from a previous relationship who is making you feel unsafe now? Yes/no

All 5 clinicians felt we didn’t screen our patients appropriately for partner violence.

All 5 reported they would feel comfortable asking about IPV and knew how to support patient for onwards support if needed.
Results

117 patients invited

116 consented

Median age = 42 yrs (21-80 years)

20 women (17%)

96 men (83%)
Ethnicity and Sexuality

### Ethnicity
- 73% British
- 16% African born-black
- 10% Other countries

### Sexuality
- 66% MSM
- 34% Heterosexual
  - 17% Men
  - 17% Women
49% OF ALL PATIENTS EXPERIENCED LIFETIME IPV

45% Women
50% Men

p = 0.7
3% of patients reported IPV in the last year
All patients who stated they were in a relationship said they felt safe
2 patients reported that a partner from a previous relationship was making them feel unsafe, however the police were aware.
Lifetime experience of IPV - ethnicity

British: 56%
African born-black or other nationalities: 29%

p = 0.009
Associations of IPV – Sexuality

- Heterosexual men: 60%
- MSM: 47%

p = 0.31
62/62 (100%) of all patients who completed a post IPV screening form responded positively to being asked about IPV.

All clinicians found patients very receptive to being asked and felt able to deal with any concerns relating to questions.
Conclusion

- First study exploring IPV in both genders.

- Nearly half of HIV positive patients reported lifetime experience of IPV, with similar rates in men and women.

- IPV was found to be significantly associated with being British.
Conclusion

- All patients responded positively to being asked about IPV.

- Following from study all new patients and annual reviews will be screened for IPV.

- This study highlights the importance of screening all patients attending HIV services for Intimate Partner Violence regardless of gender or sexuality.
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