

Abstract

Original Article

Intimate Partner Violence in Primary Settings and Consequences in Mental Health

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Abstract

Background: The Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) remains a major public health concern in community. Women and men can commit violence or can be victims of psychological and physical abuse by their partners.

Aim: In this research we study the correlation between the Intimate Partner Violence, which is a social scourge of our age, and depression, which is also a major problem of community to people visited the Primary Health Greek System.

Methodology: We evaluated the Intimate Partner Violence using the HITS scale, a short tool and also studied the mental health of those who involved with the PHQ-9 scale in Primary Health Care in Greek population.

Results: The survey consisted from a sample of 142 people who visited the Clinic of General Medicine at the Primary Health Centre of Ioannina and through emailing and social net. The Cronbach's a coefficient was 0.89, suggesting a good, almost excellent, internal consistency. The PHQ-9 score had an average value of 5.13 (standard deviation, 5.01). Our sample was composed of 18 men (12.7%) and 124 (87.3%) women. The majority of study participants scored in the low range of the scales, to the non-victim category and show minimal depression. Analysing separately the four items of HITS and PHQ-9, we observed participants of lower education and those living in rural areas displaying the highest average scores. PHQ-9 is positively associated with HITS score, while Spearman's correlation coefficient being as high as $r=0.88$.

Conclusions: The Intimate Partner Violence effects mental health of the victims and can produce severe depression and other mental disorders. More research can be done in order to develop effective programs to prevent and management violence from the primary settings.

Key Words: Intimate Partner Violence, Mental Disorders, Depression, Primary Health Care, Psychological Abuse, HITS, PHQ-9.