

## **MEDICAL SUMMARY FOR SCC DVC FEBRUARY 2010**

This summary includes selected articles indexed by the National Library of Medicine December 2009. To obtain a copy of the abstracts, go to pubmed.gov, and place the Pubmed ID numbers (PMID) in the search box, separated by commas.

### **Child Abuse**

Hornor G, Scribano P, Curran S, Stevens J.

#### **Emotional response to the ano-genital examination of suspected sexual abuse.**

J Forensic Nurs. 2009;5(3):124-30. PMID: 19702739

In this study of children aged 8-18 having an examination for suspected sexual abuse, 83% were not clinically anxious either before or after the examination. Those who were anxious were more likely to have a cognitive disability, give a history of more invasive forms of sexual abuse, or have a chronic medical or mental health diagnosis. Children in these categories may require additional interventions to decrease anxiety.

Charuvastra A, Cloitre M.

#### **Safe enough to sleep: sleep disruptions associated with trauma, posttraumatic stress, and anxiety in children and adolescents.**

Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am. 2009 Oct;18(4):877-91. PMID:19836694

This article discusses the possibility that sleep disruption may play a role in the development of PTSD after a traumatic event, evaluates the impact that anxiety and PTSD have on the different parts of the sleep cycle, and reviews possible treatment options of stress-related disordered sleep in a pediatric population.

### **Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse**

Hébert M, Tourigny M, Cyr M, McDuff P, Joly J.

#### **Prevalence of childhood sexual abuse and timing of disclosure in a representative sample of adults from Quebec.**

Can J Psychiatry. 2009 Sep;54(9):631-6. PMID: 19751552

In a telephone survey of 805 Canadians, 22.1% of women and 9.7% of men had been sexually abused as children. 20% had never disclosed this to anyone, 21% had promptly disclosed (within the first month), and 57.5% had delayed disclosure (more than 5 years later). Those who had never or had delayed disclosure had significantly higher scores of psychological distress and PTSD.

Miskovic V, Schmidt LA, Georgiades K, Boyle M, MacMillan HL.

#### **Stability of resting frontal electroencephalogram (EEG) asymmetry and cardiac vagal tone in adolescent females exposed to child maltreatment.**

Dev Psychobiol. 2009 Sep;51(6):474-87. PMID: 19629997

A group of 38 adolescent females who had experienced child maltreatment, compared to a control group without maltreatment, exhibited greater asymmetry of frontal EEG (dysfunction between both halves of the brain) and lower cardiac vagal tone (less flexibility in control of the heart by the nervous system), both markers of stress vulnerability. These changes were stable over a 6 month period, suggesting long lasting changes.

Tomoda A, Navalta CP, Polcari A, Sadato N, Teicher MH.

#### **Childhood sexual abuse is associated with reduced gray matter volume in visual cortex of young women.**

Biol Psychiatry. 2009 Oct 1;66(7):642-8. Epub 2009 Jun 27. PMID: 19560122

In a controlled study of healthy college women, those with a history of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) had a significant decrease in the volume of gray matter of the brain responsible for vision and visual memory. "This reduction was directly related to duration of CSA before age 12. Early visual experience exerts a strong influence on the developing mammalian visual cortex. Present findings indicate that exposure to CSA may also affect the development of this region."

Veenema AH.

#### **Early life stress, the development of aggression and neuroendocrine and neurobiological correlates: what can we learn from animal models?**

Front Neuroendocrinol. 2009 Oct;30(4):497-518. Epub 2009 Mar 31. PMID: 19341763

Research in primates and rodents shows that chronic deprivation of early maternal care as well as lack of early physical interactions are risk factors for the development of inappropriate aggressive behaviors, associated with alterations in regulation of stress hormones, vasopressin and serotonin.

Fuemmeler BF, Dedert E, McClernon FJ, Beckham JC.

**Adverse childhood events are associated with obesity and disordered eating: results from a U.S. population-based survey of young adults.**

J Trauma Stress. 2009 Aug;22(4):329-33. PMID: 19588510

In this large population study of young adults (15,197 with mean age 22), there was an association between overweight and obesity in men with a history of childhood sexual abuse, and problematic eating in women with a history of childhood physical abuse.

**Domestic Violence – Physical Health**

Nicolaidis C, McFarland B, Curry M, Gerrity M.

**Differences in physical and mental health symptoms and mental health utilization associated with intimate-partner violence versus childhood abuse.**

Psychosomatics. 2009 Jul-Aug;50(4):340-6. PMID: 19687174

In this survey of 380 adult female internal medicine patients, IPV was independently associated with physical symptoms, and childhood abuse was independently associated with depression.

**Domestic Violence – Mental Health**

Davis KC, Stoner SA, Norris J, George WH, Masters NT.

**Women's awareness of and discomfort with sexual assault cues: effects of alcohol consumption and relationship type.**

Violence Against Women. 2009 Sep;15(9):1106-25. PMID:19675365

In two controlled studies where over 400 women consumed alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages, intoxicated women showed decreased awareness of sexual assault risk cues.

**Cultural Issues**

Mellor D, Yeow J, Mohd Hapidzal NF, Yamamoto T, Yokoyama A, Nobuzane Y.

**Childhood cruelty to animals: a tri-national study.**

Child Psychiatry Hum Dev. 2009 Dec;40(4):527-41. PMID: 19449100

Childhood cruelty to animals has been linked to the perpetration of violence in later life. There were no significant differences in attitudes or behaviors of 1358 children aged 5-13 who had behaved cruelly to animals across cultures from Japan, Australia and Malaysia.

**Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse**

Curry MA, Renker P, Hughes RB, Robinson-Whelen S, Oswald M, Swank PR, Powers LE.

**Development of measures of abuse among women with disabilities and the characteristics of their perpetrators.**

Violence Against Women. 2009 Sep;15(9):1001-25. PMID: 19622789

A group of 305 disabled and deaf women were used to validate and critique a audio assisted computer program assessing abuse. In this sample, 68% reported some type of abuse in the past year: 51% emotional, 22% physical, 30% sexual, 7% non-lethal strangulation. However a sub-group of 37 who described multiple types of abuse experienced 68% sexual abuse, and had highest rates of neglect, destruction of equipment, medication manipulation, and financial abuse.

Powers LE, Renker P, Robinson-Whelen S, Oswald M, Hughes R, Swank P, Curry MA.

**Interpersonal violence and women with disabilities: analysis of safety promoting behaviors.**

Violence Against Women. 2009 Sep;15(9):1040-69. PMID: 19608856

More information from the above study analyzed safety promoting behaviors, which were linked to types of abuse experienced.

Shinan-Altman S, Cohen M.

**Nursing aides' attitudes to elder abuse in nursing homes: the effect of work stressors and burnout.**

Gerontologist. 2009 Oct;49(5):674-84. PMID: 19574544

In this study of 208 aides from 18 nursing homes in Israel, condoning abusive behaviors was closely associated with work stress, burnout, and low income.

Rudnick JD.

**Elder abuse and neglect: staving off a 'social tsunami'. Clergy and health care providers should be positioned to spot abuse.**

Health Prog. 2009 Nov-Dec;90(6):54-9. PMID: 19938433

The U.S. Bureau of the Census predicts that people 65 and older will outnumber children by the year 2020 and will comprise 25 percent of the nation's total population by the year 2050. "...from an awareness perspective, elder abuse is where child abuse was 20 years ago." Authors urge health providers and clergy to receive more training for this problem that may reach epidemic proportions in the near future.

**Perpetrators**

Beasley JO, Hayne AS, Beyer K, Cramer GL, Berson SB, Muirhead Y, Warren JI.

**Patterns of prior offending by child abductors: a comparison of fatal and non-fatal outcomes.**

Int J Law Psychiatry. 2009 Sep-Oct;32(5):273-80. PMID: 19716602

In a study of 750 child abductors, in 42% the child was later found alive (FA), and 58% the child was found dead or was presumed dead (FM). 25% of perpetrators had no prior criminal history, and 75% had on average 7 prior arrests during the previous 12 years, findings that were the same for both FA and FM groups.

Walsh JA, Krienert JL.

**A decade of child-initiated family violence: comparative analysis of child--parent violence and parricide examining offender, victim, and event characteristics in a national sample of reported incidents,1995-2005.**

J Interpers Violence. 2009 Sep;24(9):1450-77. PMID: 18768742

In an 11 year evaluation of child-parent violence (CPV) vs. parricide (homicide of parent by child), CPV offenders were more likely to be female, African American, and less likely to use a weapon than parricide offenders.

**Police and Court System**

Rutkow L, Vernick JS, Webster DW, Lennig DJ.

**Violence against women and the U.S. Supreme Court: recent challenges and opportunities for advocates and practitioners.**

Violence Against Women. 2009 Oct;15(10):1248-58. PMID:19762719

Article analyses Supreme Court cases relating to DV in the past decade.

Fast DK, Conry J.

**Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and the criminal justice system.**

Dev Disabil Res Rev. 2009;15(3):250-7. PMID: 19731365

"The life-long neurological impairments found in people with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs), including learning disabilities, impulsivity, hyperactivity, social ineptness, and poor judgment, can increase susceptibility to victimization and involvement in the criminal justice system (CJS). Experiencing physical, sexual, and emotional abuse also increases the risk that these individuals will become involved in the CJS. Corrections workers and probation officers need to comprehend the significance of FASD and how it affects the offender's abilities to understand and follow rules and probation orders."

Kelly PJ, Cheng AL, Peralez-Dieckmann E, Martinez E.

**Dating violence and girls in the juvenile justice system.**

J Interpers Violence. 2009 Sep;24(9):1536-51. PMID: 18768739

In a study of 590 girls in an urban juvenile justice system, 51% had experienced dating violence. These girls were more likely to have had an initial sexual experience age 13 or earlier, unwillingness of initial sexual experience, and drug use.

**Providers**

Kaye P, Taylor C, Barley K, Powell-Chandler A.

**An emergency department intervention to protect an overlooked group of children at risk of significant harm.**

Emerg Med J. 2009 Jun;26(6):415-7. PMID: 19465610

"Parental psychiatric disorder, especially depression, personality disorder and deliberate self-harm, is known to put children at greater risk of mental illness, neglect, or physical, emotional and sexual abuse." Article suggests that patients presenting to the ED with mental health issues be asked about dependent children, and to consider a referral of those children to social services.

Bunn MY, Higa NA, Parker WJ, Kaneshiro B.

**Domestic violence screening in pregnancy.**

Hawaii Med J. 2009 Nov;68(10):240-2. PubMed PMID: 19998694

In a study from the University of Hawaii, chart review revealed that 2.4% of resident clinic patients vs. 39.3% of private ob patients were screened for DV. While 77.6% of MDs practicing ob knew about the American College of Ob/Gyn DV screening recommendations in pregnancy, 69% “never or rarely” screened for it.

Tran P, Mannen J.

**Improving oral healthcare: improving the quality of life for patients after a stroke.**

Spec Care Dentist. 2009 Sep-Oct;29(5):218-21. PMID: 19740154

Patients who have suffered a stroke have increased problems with oral health; they also are more vulnerable to mistreatment, neglect, and abuse. This article alerts dentists to this issue and reviews reporting to APS.

**Other of Interest**

Cronley C, Strand EB, Patterson DA, Gwaltney S.

**Homeless people who are animal caretakers: a comparative study.**

Psychol Rep. 2009 Oct;105(2):481-99. PMID: 19928610

In a analysis of over 4,000 homeless people, 5.5% were caring for animals. The largest demographic group who did so were first-time homeless Euro-American women who were homeless due to domestic violence.

Bennett J, Espie C, Duncan B, Minnis H.

**A qualitative exploration of children's understanding of indiscriminate friendliness.**

Clin Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2009 Oct;14(4):595-618. PMID: 19759077

Interviews were held with eight young people aged 9-14 who had experienced maltreatment and foster placement, and who were described as being indiscriminately friendly. “While being aware of the risks associated with speaking to strangers and the efforts of adults attempting to protect them from the potential danger associated with indiscriminate friendliness, this group of young people demonstrated ...a craving for kindness from others.” Article offers insight into social interactions of this vulnerable group.