Child Abuse


Of 1335 families enrolled in an Early Head Start program, 8% of toddlers had ACE scores of 4+. At age 11 this group was 2.65 times more likely to be obese, and well as over two times more likely to have respiratory problems, take prescriptions, and have lower-rated overall health.


Although rare, in spinal injury cases due to abuse, patients were 133.4 times more likely to be under age 2, and had longer lengths of stay and higher hospital costs compared with non-abused spinal injury pediatric patients.


Extensive review with images - “A number of conditions, both traumatic and atraumatic can mimic AHT [abusive head trauma] based on neuroimaging features alone...we review the imaging findings and focus on features that can help differentiate these entities from AHT.”


Using a specific type of theoretical biomechanical analysis that accounts for detailed head geometry, advanced material modelling, and case-specific factors (e.g. head impact location, impact surface properties), authors answer the question of whether a described history can explain the observed skull fracture.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse


“Early life adversity alters neural circuitry underpinning cognitive control as well as emotional processing, including networks involved in processing threat and reward. These neural changes are associated psychologically and behaviorally with heightened emotional reactivity, blunted reward responsivity, and poorer emotion regulation ...associated with an increased risk of smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, and eating high-fat, high-sugar foods.”


From a large national study, “depression and obesity are significant pathways through which childhood sexual abuse may be linked to diabetes in adulthood.”
Adolescents

Barber JS, Kusunoki Y, Gatny H, Budnick J.  
**The Dynamics of Intimate Partner Violence and the Risk of Pregnancy during the Transition to Adulthood.**  
Am Sociol Rev. 2018 Oct;83(5):1020-1047. PMID: 30739942  
From a 2.5 year study of 867 young women in Michigan, "violent young men are more likely to want their girlfriends pregnant, and they use threats and physical assault to implement their preferences via sex and contraceptive non-use, which in turn increase pregnancy rates."

Northridge JL.  
**Sexual Violence in Adolescents.**  
“Specific sexual violence screening recommendations for sexual assault, intimate partner violence, reproductive coercion, and sex trafficking are reviewed in this article. In addition, recommendations for the comprehensive treatment of adolescents exposed to sexual violence are examined. National and local resources for victims and promising strategies to prevent sexual violence, including sex trafficking, are identified.”

Lim L, Hart H, Mehta M, et. al.  
**Grey matter volume and thickness abnormalities in young people with a history of childhood abuse.**  
Psychol Med. 2018 Apr;48(6):1034-1046. PMID: 29122037  
For 22 maltreated adolescents, childhood abuse was associated on brain scans with widespread structural abnormalities in multiple regions relating to mood/emotion, motivation, and cognitive function, compared to controls.

Okpych NJ, Courtney ME.  
**Characteristics of foster care history as risk factors for psychiatric disorders among youth in care.**  
Am J Orthopsychiatry. 2018;88(3):269-281. PMID: 28253015  
Of 706 California adolescents in foster care, 47.3% screened positive for a psychiatric disorder, and 25.2% had attempted suicide. Placement instability predicted PTSD, alcohol and substance use problems, and suicide attempts.
Carlson J, Voith L, Brown JC, Holmes M. 
**Viewing Children’s Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence Through a Developmental, Social-Ecological, and Survivor Lens: The Current State of the Field, Challenges, and Future Directions.**

This article summarizes the literature examining the effects of IPV exposure on children, reviews key underlying mechanisms, suggests the use of a public health prevention approach, and presents a discussion of next steps with identification of key challenges.

Etherington N, Baker L. 
**From "Buzzword" to Best Practice: Applying Intersectionality to Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence.**
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2018 Jan;19(1):58-75. PMID: 26951190

Discussion with regards to policy and research on recognition of the diversity among children exposed to IPV. “The field of IPV has recognized that survivors ‘do not speak with one voice’ but has tended to ignore the diverse voices of their children through examining only discrete characteristics.”

Nwabuzor Ogbonnaya I, Keeney AJ, Villodas MT. 
**The role of co-occurring intimate partner violence, alcohol use, drug use, and depressive symptoms on disciplinary practices of mothers involved with child welfare.**
Child Abuse Negl. 2019 Apr;90:76-87. PMID: 30769190

In a survey of mother-child pairs where the children were subjects of CPS investigations, IPV and depressive symptoms were independently associated with psychologically aggressive maternal discipline, IPV with physically aggressive discipline, and depressive symptoms with neglectful parenting.

Komori K, Komori M, Eitoku M, et. al. 
**Verbal abuse during pregnancy increases frequency of newborn hearing screening referral: The Japan Environment and Children’s Study.**
Child Abuse Negl. 2019 Apr;90:193-201. PMID: 30807899

From a large Japanese study, and controlling for many variables, women who experienced verbal abuse from their partner during pregnancy were 44% more likely to have their newborn fail the newborn hearing screening test and be referred for further testing, “suggesting that verbal abuse from an intimate partner during pregnancy is associated with immature or deficient auditory function at birth.”

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**Domestic Violence – Physical Health**

Grace KT, Anderson JC. 
**Reproductive Coercion: A Systematic Review.**

Review of reproductive coercion which may take the form of birth control sabotage, pregnancy coercion, or controlling the outcome of a pregnancy. Authors note a need for further research on strategies women use to resist coercion as well as interventions aimed at survivors and perpetrators and the health-care providers who encounter them.

van den Berk Clark C, Chang J, Servay J, Quinlan JD. 
**Women’s Health and the Military.**
Prim Care. 2018 Dec;45(4):677-686. PMID: 30401349

There are approximately 1.8 million American women veterans and 200,000 women in active service. “This article discusses reproductive health concerns, family planning and contraceptive considerations, intimate partner violence and military sexual assault, posttraumatic stress disorder, and post-deployment health issues. It concludes with a list of available resources accessible to veterans and their providers.”

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**Domestic Violence – Mental Health**

Goodfriend W, Arriaga XB. 
**Cognitive Reframing of Intimate Partner Aggression: Social and Contextual Influences.**

“Intimate partner aggression violates U.S. culturally-accepted standards regarding how partners should treat each other. Victims must reconcile the dissonance associated with being in what should be a loving and supportive relationship, while being in the same relationship that is personally and deeply harmful. To manage these clashing cognitions, victims consciously and unconsciously adopt perceptions to reframe their partner’s aggression, minimizing and reinterpreting the occurrence or impact of aggressive acts, and justifying remaining in their relationship.”

“Women who use alcohol and other drugs often experience other comorbid medical conditions (chronic Hepatitis C and HIV), contextual confounders (intimate partner violence exposure, homelessness, trauma), and social expectations (e.g., as caretakers) that must be addressed as part of integrated care to effectively treat women’s substance use issues.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse


“IPV is commonly experienced by older women (lifetime prevalence 16.5%-54.5%), but they may experience abuse differently to younger women. They also face unique barriers to accessing help, such as disability and dependence on partners.”


“As care burden is a strong predictor of abuse, community services should provide respite services, support groups, and secondary caregivers to mitigate the intensive burden experienced by primary caregivers.” Authors also note that “Findings from a 6-month prospective study showed that once family caregivers enter into the abusive cycle, abuse becomes habitual, and reduction in agitated behavior does not result in a corresponding reduction in abuse (Yan, 2014). This suggests that it is important to prevent new cases of elder abuse.”


“In a survey of Irish nursing home directors with a 55% response rate, over 10% reported “seeing cases where they felt a resident who lacked capacity was visited by a solicitor or where a resident was placed under undue pressure to make or change a will or both. In most such cases, staff felt they could do little to intervene...suggested staff misunderstanding of the confidential nature of the relationship between a solicitor and a client.”


Using input from elder abuse experts and clinician focus groups, essential elements of a geriatric injury documentation tool were assembled. Practical challenges to utilization that need to be overcome are discussed, including integration into existing electronic medical records.


Although pediatric radiologists play a critical role in detection of suggestive abuse findings, which have been extensively studied and characterized, radiologists currently play virtually no role in the detection of physical elder abuse, despite the frequency with which elders visit the ED and undergo imaging. Radiologist receive virtually no formal training, clinical communication from providers is extremely minimal, and providers do not see radiologists as a source of new information or clinical insight. This limited view of radiologists’ role in elder abuse detection is both a consequence of, and a potential contributor to, lack of knowledge about imaging findings of elder abuse.

Cultural Concerns


Authors note the limited research existing with respect to ACEs and certain racial and ethnic groups, the resiliency factors that may exist among these unique groups, and the importance against stereotyping with an emphasis focusing on individual patients.
Nadan Y, Roer-Strier D, Gemara N, Engdau-Vanda S, Tener D. 
In the eyes of the beholder: Parental and professional value mismatch in child risk and protection in two communities in Israel.
Int J Psychol. 2018 Dec;53 Suppl 2:23-33. PMID: 30010191
From discussions with 2 Israeli minority groups and their assigned social workers, discrepancies arose in parents’ and professionals’ perceptions of “risk” and “protection” for children. Authors call upon professionals to re-visit "universals" in the "risk" discourse while taking into account the realms of culture, ethnicity, religiosity, spirituality and community life when assessing risk and treating children and families of minority communities.

Femi-Ajao O.
Intimate partner violence and abuse against Nigerian women resident in England, UK: a cross-sectional qualitative study.
Nigerian women resident in England experiencing IPV are more likely to seek help from leaders and members of their ethnic community and faith-based organizations. Collaborative work with these groups may increase access and utilization of existing IPV services.

Fear W.
Tekichila Unpo (Love One Another): Confronting Human Trafficking With the Guidance of Traditional Lakota Wisdom in Nursing Practice.
Human trafficking of young Native American women emerged as a serious social issue in North Dakota during the Bakken oil field boom. The author, a Lakota woman, “employs an approach with trafficking victims that seeks to reestablish the view of self as a being with significant value and ability to contribute to the world in a way that no other being can. In advocacy, she teaches professionals about the Lakota view of the Earth as a living being whose destruction may be correlated with the increased violence against women.”

Sexual Assault

Fiorentin TR, Logan BK.
Toxicological findings in 1000 cases of suspected drug facilitated sexual assault in the United States.
Review of 1000 cases of possible drug-facilitated sexual assault from 37 states. 91.68% were women, with mean age of 26.8 years, and 101 different substances were detected. In some cases a delay in collecting samples may have changed results.

Wong JS, Balemba S.
The Effect of Victim Resistance on Rape Completion: A Meta-Analysis.
From a research review, “Women who resist their attacker are significantly more likely than non-resisters to avoid rape completion. This finding held across analyses for physical resistance, verbal resistance, or resistance of any kind. Limitations of the analysis and policy implications are discussed, with particular focus on other research findings that resistance may be linked to greater victim injury.”

Manning D, Majeed-Ariss R, Mattison M, White C.
The high prevalence of pre-existing mental health complaints in clients attending Saint Mary’s Sexual Assault Referral Centre: Implications for initial management and engagement with the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor service at the centre.
From chart review of 180 clients seen in a Manchester (UK) sexual assault referral center, 69% reported a pre-existing mental health complaint, very high and higher than in the general population. “The vulnerability of this client group should be considered when they attend a SARC [Sexual Assault Referral Center] and support provided should be appropriate and accessible to their needs.”
Fedina L, Holmes JL, Backes BL. 
Campus Sexual Assault: A Systematic Review of Prevalence Research From 2000 to 2015. 
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2018 Jan;19(1):76-93. PMID: 26906086

“Prevalence findings, research design, methodology, sampling techniques, and measures, including the forms of sexual victimization measured, are presented and evaluated across studies. Findings suggest that unwanted sexual contact appears to be most prevalent on college campuses, including sexual coercion, followed by incapacitated rape, and completed or attempted forcible rape.”

Wiersma-Mosley JD, Jozkowski KN. 
A Brief Report of Sexual Violence among Universities with NCAA Division I Athletic Programs. 

Using 2014 data from 1422 four-year private and public institutions, “Division I campuses reported significantly higher reports of violence against women compared to Division II, III, and universities with no athletic programs...significantly higher relationship and sexual violence within the football bowl and football championship subdivisions. These findings have important implications for targeting higher risk campuses, with much needed sexual assault prevention programs.”

Kubiak SP, Brenner H, Bybee D, Campbell R, Fedock G. 

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that between 149,200 and 209,400 incidents of sexual victimization occur annually in prisons and jails, with only 8% reporting the event. “The annual cost of sexual victimization within prisons in the United States is US $51.9 billion for medical and mental health care (i.e., suicide risk management, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, substance abuse, and victim services), and the criminal justice investigation and sanctioning associated with sexual victimization.”

Human Trafficking

Roby JL, Vincent M. 
Federal and State Responses to Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: The Evolution of Policy. 

“Domestic minor sex trafficking is a rapidly growing problem in the United States. Most children and youths exploited in commercial sex have typically experienced prior abuse, neglect, or other forms of injuries. Many have been involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and are often lured by promises of love, security, protection, and belonging. Policy development is still an evolving process at both federal and state levels, but the general trend is to recognize such minors as victims rather than perpetrators of sex crimes.”

Speck PM, Mitchell SA, Ekroos RA, Sanchez RV, Messias DKH. 
Policy brief on the nursing response to human trafficking. 

Policy statement from the American Academy of Nursing on the nursing response to human trafficking, including a review of the topic, summary of responses from other professional organizations, and recommendations for promotion of awareness, education and advocacy.

Le PD, Ryan N, Rosenstock Y, Goldmann E. 
Health Issues Associated with Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Children in the United States: A Systematic Review. 
Behav Med. 2018 Jul-Sep;44(3):219-233. PMID: 30020867

In commercially sexually exploited and sex trafficked US children there are elevated burdens of substance use and abuse; mental health disorders such as depression, PTSD and suicidal behaviors; and sexual and reproductive health issues including STIs, HIV, and pregnancy. Researchers discuss need for studies that assess overlooked health issues such as malnutrition, eating disorders, post-trauma growth, and long-term health consequences.

Rajaram SS, Tidball S. 
Survivors’ Voices-Complex Needs of Sex Trafficking Survivors in the Midwest. 
Behav Med. 2018 Jul-Sep;44(3):189-198. PMID: 29095121

From interviews with 22 Midwestern sex-trafficking survivors, the majority were not married and lived in either foster care or a group home as children. “Findings highlighted the lack of awareness among the general public about sex trafficking and the stigma, blame and lack of trust that survivors experience. Frontline professionals such as healthcare providers and law enforcement lacked a trauma informed approach. Survivors’ long-term needs include mental health services, and job and life skills training to help them fully recover.”
Gerassi LB.  
**Barriers to Accessing Detox Facilities, Substance Use Treatment, and Residential Services among Women Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking.**  
Behav Med. 2018 Jul-Sep;44(3):199-208. PMID: 28985156  
"More than 50% of women entering substance use treatment in the United States reported having traded sex for money or drugs. Women's participation in addiction treatment and related services is essential to their recovery and increased safety, stabilization, and quality of life.” Sobriety requirements created barriers to accessing addiction treatment or residential services, and "they were only able to detox when they were forced to do so in jail or prison, often without medical assistance.”

**Perpetrators**

Pflugradt DM, Allen BP, Zintsmaster AJ.  
**Adverse Childhood Experiences of Violent Female Offenders: A Comparison of Homicide and Sexual Perpetrators.**  
In this study of violent female offenders, 100% of perpetrators of intentional homicide reported at least one ACE. 82% reported 4 or more ACEs compared to 41% of female sexual offenders and 15% of the general public.

McCarthy M, Bates C, Triantafyllopoulou P, et. al.  
"Put bluntly, they are targeted by the worst creeps society has to offer": Police and professionals' views and actions relating to domestic violence and women with intellectual disabilities.  
From an online survey of Police and health and social care professionals across UK, half had the direct experience of working with a woman with intellectual disabilities who had experienced domestic violence. The majority of both professionals and Police believed that women with intellectual disabilities were deliberately targeted by violent and abusive men.

**Police and Court Systems**

van Dijk AJ, Herrington V, Crofts N, et. al.  
**Law enforcement and public health: recognition and enhancement of joined-up solutions.**  
Lancet. 2019 Jan 19;393(10168):287-294. PMID: 30663598  
Discussion of meaningful collaboration between police and public health to protect the health and safety of the public. "Increased awareness of the complexity of social issues such as violence, mental health, alcohol and drug misuse, migration, and human trafficking should result in the operationalisation of collaborative approaches.”

Coon AM, Beyramysoltan S, Musah RA.  
**A chemometric strategy for forensic analysis of condom residues: Identification and marker profiling of condom brands from direct analysis in real time-high resolution mass spectrometric chemical signatures.**  
Talanta. 2019 Mar 1;194:563-575. PMID: 30609574  
In sexual assault cases where the assailant has used a condom in order to avoid leaving behind incriminating DNA evidence, authors have developed a database to identify residues based on differences in chemical components peculiar to each condom brand.

**Providers**

White JW, Sienkiewicz HC, Smith PH.  
**Envisioning Future Directions: Conversations With Leaders in Domestic and Sexual Assault Advocacy, Policy, Service, and Research.**  
Violence Against Women. 2019 Jan;25(1):105-127. PMID: 30803429  
Common future vision themes from 72 leaders in domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy, policy, service, and research included: examine the context of victims’ and offenders’ experiences, increase cultural competence, increase reliance on victims’ voices, continue to develop partnerships at both the community and state levels, expand the concept of successful outcomes, emphasize mixed-methods approaches, and be open to novel or emerging approaches to intervention.

Watson P.  
**How to screen for ACEs in an efficient, sensitive, and effective manner.**  
Concise and practical 2 page advice on how to screen, explain, and manage the results for both children and parents.
Jacob G, van den Heuvel M, Jama N, et. al.  
**Adverse childhood experiences: Basics for the paediatrician.**  
Paediatr Child Health. 2019 Feb;24(1):30-37. PMID: 30792598  
“We discuss adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress, the neurobiological basis and multigenerational and epigenetic transmission of trauma and recognized health implications. Further, we outline building resilience, screening in the clinical setting, primary care interventions, applying trauma-informed care and future directions.”

Munoz RT, Hanks H, Brahm NC, et. al.  
**Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trust in the Medical Profession among Young Adults.**  
From surveys of 95 homeless adolescent youth, 72.6% of whom had 4+ ACEs, ACEs were a robust predictor of lower trust in the medical profession. This decreased trust is associated with less willingness to seek care and follow provider recommendations, a possible link between poorer health and ACEs.

**Prevention**

Yamaoka Y, Bard DE.  
**Positive Parenting Matters in the Face of Early Adversity.**  
From a large national study, “The number of adverse childhood experiences was associated with both social-emotional deficits and developmental delay risks in early childhood; however, positive parenting practices [PPP] demonstrated robust protective effects independent of the number of adverse childhood experiences.”  PPP included reading books together, storytelling/singing, playing, family outing, family meal together, and <2 hr of TV/day.

Dworkin ER, Schumacher JA.  
**Preventing Posttraumatic Stress Related to Sexual Assault Through Early Intervention: A Systematic Review.**  
Review of what is known to date about what key elements of early interventions, both formal and informal, successfully prevent the development of PTS after sexual assault. Much information is lacking but the quality of services provided and perceptions of interactions with certain responders appear to be associated with PTS.

Crooks CV, Jaffe P, Dunlop C, Kerry A, Exner-Cortens D.  
**Preventing Gender-Based Violence Among Adolescents and Young Adults: Lessons From 25 Years of Program Development and Evaluation.**  
Review of what is known about effective strategies for universal prevention of dating violence in high school settings, bystander interventions on college/university campuses, and knowledge gaps on effective prevention among marginalized groups.

**Researchers**

Degli Esposti M, Taylor J, Humphreys DK, Bowes L.  
**iCoverT: A rich data source on the incidence of child maltreatment over time in England and Wales.**  
A free open access data source has been created covering child maltreatment over time in England and Wales 1858-2016, including pre-existing datasets (including non-digitalized datasets) of Child Protection Statistics, Children In Care Statistics, Criminal Statistics, Homicide Index, Mortality Statistics and NSPCC Statistics.  
https://osf.io/cf7mv/

Rothman EF, Farrell A, Bright K, Paruk J.  
**Ethical and Practical Considerations for Collecting Research-Related Data from Commercially Sexually Exploited Children.**  
Behav Med. 2018 Jul-Sep;44(3):250-258. PMID: 30020869  
Presentation of ethical and practical challenges in the process of collecting data from commercially sexually exploited children, including issues that limited data quality; and concerns about the impact of the research on participants, researchers, and others.

Alvarez C, Fedock G.  
**Addressing Intimate Partner Violence With Latina Women: A Call for Research.**  
“We examine the gaps in research across dimensions of access to care (i.e. availability, affordability, accessibility, accommodation, and acceptability of services)...and call for research in order to determine best practices and evidence-based, culturally appropriate and acceptable interventions.”

Cannon AC, Arcara J, Graham LM, Macy RJ. 
**Trafficking and Health: A Systematic Review of Research Methods.** 
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2018 Apr;19(2):159-175. PMID: 27189733

Review of data collection and analysis methods being used to investigate human trafficking and health, with recommendations for research, policy and practice.

**Other of Interest**

Newland X, Boller M, Boller E. 
**Considering the relationship between domestic violence and pet abuse and its significance in the veterinary clinical and educational contexts.** 

“Pet abuse (PA) has been identified as a potential risk factor for DV, and DV perpetrators may harm or kill a pet to exert physical, psychological or emotional control over an intimate partner. Given that victims of DV often seek veterinary aid for their pets, veterinarians may act as frontline professionals in the recognition of the link between PA and DV...veterinary student education is needed to prepare veterinarians for their response to PA and DV in practice.”

Henry N, Powell A. 
**Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: A Literature Review of Empirical Research.** 
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2018 Apr;19(2):195-208. PMID: 27311818

Review of Technology-facilitated sexual violence, “a range of behaviors where digital technologies are used to facilitate both virtual and face-to-face sexually based harms. Such behaviors include online sexual harassment, gender-and sexuality-based harassment, cyberstalking, image-based sexual exploitation, and the use of a carriage [telecommunications] service to coerce a victim into an unwanted sexual act.”

Sanmartin MX, Ali MM, Chen J, Dwyer DS. 
**Mental Health Treatment and Unmet Mental Health Care Need Among Pregnant Women With Major Depressive Episode in the United States.** 
Psychiatr Serv. 2019 Apr 10;appips201800433. PMID: 30966943

Using a national dataset of 12,360 women, of pregnant women who had experienced major depression, only 49% had received any mental health treatment, compared to 57% of non-pregnant women with depression. Women were not asked about healthcare depression screening. Financial barriers were the primary reason for unmet mental health needs, including that the person could not afford the cost, the insurance did not cover the treatment, or insurance was not enough to cover the cost of treatment. A significant portion of this group reported misusing opioids (6%), using marijuana (17%), or drinking alcohol (23%) during pregnancy. (Since IPV is a significant risk factor for depression in pregnancy, lack of depression treatment may be associated with possible substance use to cope with both IPV and mood, suboptimal conditions for the next generation.)

Buggio L, Facchin F, Chiappa L, et. al. 
**Psychosexual Consequences of Female Genital Mutilation and the Impact of Reconstructive Surgery: A Narrative Review.** 
Health Equity. 2019 Feb 20;3(1):36-46. PMID: 30805570

It is estimated that presently 200 million women and girls have experienced female genital mutilation/circumcision, with 3 million girls/year at risk for this procedure. This article reviews the classifications of female genital mutilation/circumcision, the short and long term medical and mental health complications, and considerations regarding reconstruction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2. Health Risks Associated with Female Genital Mutilation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Short-term complications</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Extreme pain</td>
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<td>- Hemorrhage</td>
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<td>- Shock (hemorrhagic, neurogenic, septic)</td>
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<td>- Infection (wound infection, septicemia, gangrene, tetanus, genital and reproductive tract infections, urinary tract infections, possible association with increased risk of HIV and HCV due to the use of the same surgical instrument without sterilization)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Necrotizing fasciitis</td>
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<td>- Acute urine retention, urethral injury</td>
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<td>- Death (secondary to severe bleeding or septicemia)</td>
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<td><strong>Long-term complications</strong></td>
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<td>- Urological: infections (chronic genital abscesses, recurrent vaginal infections, recurrent urinary tract infections), genital scarring, inclusion cysts, menstrual disorders (dysmenorrhea, irregular periods, and difficult passage of menstrual blood with the risk of hematomata), chronic vulvar and pelvic pain, painful urination, infertility (primary, ascending pelvic infections)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Obstetric: increased risk of prolonged labor, postpartum hemorrhage (blood loss 2500 mL), epistaxis, perineal trauma, caesarean section, instrumental delivery, prolonged hospitalization, stillbirth, and early neonatal death</td>
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<td>- Psychological: post-traumatic stress disorders, anxiety, depression, memory problems</td>
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<td>- Sexual complications: dyspareunia (particularly with type III FGM), decreased sexual satisfaction and lubrication during intercourse, reduced sexual desire and arousal, increased risk of anorgasmia</td>
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