

The Association Between IPV and FGIDs and Symptoms Among Adult Women: A Systematic Review

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Problem: Functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGIDs) and symptoms have been identified as health consequences of intimate partner violence (IPV), with significant burdens for women. However, whether specific types of abuse (i.e., psychological, physical and sexual) affect the health of women living with FGIDs in different ways, and the mechanisms that explain these impacts on their health and quality of life, are not well understood.

Purpose: This systematic review was conducted to: a) examine the association between types of IPV (i.e., physical, sexual, and psychological abuse) and risk of FGIDs and symptoms (such as chronic abdominal pain symptoms, IBS, functional dyspepsia, frequent diarrhea, frequent constipation, and vomiting and nausea disorders) among adult women, b) identify the mechanisms that mediate and/or moderate these health effects, and c) assess the impact of FGIDs and symptoms on women's quality of life.

Methods: Using the PRISMA guideline, searches of selected electronic databases (PubMed, CINAHL, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, ProQuest-Nursing & Allied Health, PsycINFO, Scopus, and Social Work Abstracts) were conducted for English language studies of adult women (18 years or older) who had experienced IPV and reported FGIDs and symptoms. Both quantitative descriptive (i.e., ecological, cross-sectional, cohort, and case-control studies), and qualitative studies were included, with no time frame for publication specified. Quality assessment of each included study was completed using published guidelines adapted from Hoya for quantitative studies and the Critical Skills Appraisal Program (CASP) tool for qualitative studies.

Results: 1444 unique records were initially identified. After Level 1 abstract screening by 2 reviewers, 1393 records were excluded and 51 potentially relevant manuscripts remained. Level 2 full text review yielded 15 included studies. Preliminary results suggest that there is an association between various types of IPV and FGIDs and symptoms and some factors, such as stress, appear to mediate and/or moderate this association.

Conclusion: Results of this study may be useful in identifying the types of practice interventions that could mitigate the consequences of IPV on the health of women living with FGIDs. Final results will be available by January, 2020.

Title:

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Keywords:

functional gastrointestinal disorders, intimate partner violence and quality of life outcomes

Abstract Summary:

To examine the association between different types of IPV and the risk of FGIDs and symptoms among adult women, b) identify the mechanisms that might mediate or moderate these health effects, and, c) to examine how FGIDs effect aspects of women's QOL (e.g., health, social life, and economic status).

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Author Summary: I have experience working with the women population in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as a registered nurse, specifically in labour and delivery. MScN (Nursing Leadership in Health Promotion and Advanced Nursing Practice) at Western University. My passion is to serve health awareness and health promotion research. I am interested in women's health, leadership, team-building, holistic care of patients, and healthcare technology.