

Risk for Traumatic Brain Injury in Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

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Abstract:

Research Objectives: The purpose of this study was to assist in identifying risk factors for traumatic brain injury (TBI) in a population of individuals who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV).

Keywords: Traumatic Brain Injury | Domestic Violence | Attention

Presentation Abstract:

Research Objectives: The purpose of this study was to assist in identifying risk factors for traumatic brain injury (TBI) in a population of individuals who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV).

Design: An electronic survey was used to collect data on a convenience sample recruited through social media. Eligible participants described their demographic characteristics; their past experiences with IPV; and their physical, cognitive, and mental health. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected.

Setting: The electronic survey was hosted through a secure, internet-based survey-hosting platform. Links to the survey were distributed on a variety of websites frequented by IPV survivors.

Participants: A total of 130 participants completed the online survey. The participants ranged in age from 21 to 75 years of age.

Interventions: Not Applicable.

Main Outcome Measure(s): The survey questions were designed to reflect the study's research questions and chosen based on the existing literature on IPV and IPV-related TBI. The HELPS Brain Injury Screening Tool (Picard et al., 1999) was used to further analyze the survey data.

Results: A total of 105/130 participants reported physical abuse. Physical abuse included blows to the face, neck, and head. Physical symptoms reported included nausea, vomiting, altered consciousness, light sensitivity, balance issues, and headaches. Cognitive symptoms reported included poor concentration, memory, and problem solving abilities. Emotional issues included depression and anxiety.

Conclusions: The incidence and severity of TBI resulting from IPV is unknown. Through this study, we identified a group of IPV survivors at risk. Community awareness programs are needed to increase recognition of the signs and symptoms of a potential IPV-related TBI.

Key Words: Traumatic Brain Injury, Domestic Violence, Attention

Disclosures: None disclosed.