Marital Violence: Prevalence and Risk Factors

S. HENTATI1, F. Charfeddine1, R. Masmoudi1, L. Aribi1, F. Smaoui1, E. Elleuch1, J. Aloulou1, O. Amaimi1

1psychiatry, CHU Hédi Chaker Sfax Tunisia, sfax, Tunisia

Introduction:

Marital abuse is a serious social problem that has damaging impact on women's wellbeing. Therefore, prevention and intervention efforts require determining the risk factors involved.

Objective:

Study the prevalence and risk factors of marital violence against women.

Methods:

A descriptive cross-sectional and analytical study carried on 50 married women without psychiatric history.

Data collection was conducted via a questionnaire exploring socio-demographics characteristics and the marital relationship.

Three scales were passed:

- The Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS): to assess verbal domestic violence (six items) and physical domestic violence (nine items).
- Maternity social support scale (MSSS): to evaluate the social and family support.
- Marital satisfaction scale of Azrin: assessing the satisfaction experienced of the wife at the partner's behavior.

Results:

The average age was 41 ± 11.5 years.

Education level did not exceed the primary level in 64% cases. The socioeconomic level was judged to be average in 72% of cases.

The prevalence of marital violence in its verbal and physical forms was 72%. More than one third of women (44%) reported that they were victims of physical violence.

Low socioeconomic level (p=0.003), low partner’s educational level (p=0.049), parental history of childhood abuse (0.002), poor marital satisfaction (0.001) and poor social and family support (0.01) were significantly associated with physical violence.

Conclusion:

Marital abuse in its various forms remains a worldwide phenomenon. Several risk factors inherent to the woman, the husband and their marital relationship seem to be associated with marital violence in its physical form.