

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ORAL HEALTH AND HPV PREVALENCE IN MIGRANT WOMEN.

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OBJECTIVES

Describe the oral health status, history of domestic abuse and presence of oral infection with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in migrant women.

METHODS

Cross-sectional study, in 100 Venezuelan migrant women in Cartagena-Colombia. A structured questionnaire was used regarding socio-demographic characteristics, oral health, and domestic violence. Oral health examination was done to record information about dental caries, periodontal status, and intraoral soft tissue injury. For assessment of Domestic Violence and sexual abuse a semi-structured interview using the Norvold Abuse (NOR-AQ) and Abuse Assessment Screening (AAS) questionnaires. Exfoliated samples of the oral mucosa and subsequent DNA extraction were performed to identify the presence of HPV. The clinical examination and interview were carried out by a single trained female investigator. Participants approved their voluntary participation through informed consent, approved by the institutional ethics committee.

RESULTS

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

	n=100	%
Gender		
Female	43	100
Age	Mean	SD
	39,15	13,62

ABUSE ASSESSMENT SCREEN (AAS)

In the Abuse Assessment Screen (AAS), identifies women victims of physical and sexual violence, 8% report have been emotionally or physically abused, 16% have been hit, slapped, kicked or physically forced to have sexual activities.

ORAL HEALTH STATUS

58% were diagnosed with dental caries, according to ICDAS severity; 16% initial (1-2), 12% moderate (3 and 4) and 6% severe (5 and 6), DMF: 8.24 ± 6.07, decayed teeth: 1.82 ± 2.66, filled: 2.51 ± 2.9 and missed: 3.89 ± 5.54; 68% had signs of periodontal disease, 6% had lesions in the oral mucosa, 100% of exfoliate mucosa samples had no evidence of HPV.

CONCLUSIONS

- Poor indicators of oral health and significant signs of physical, emotional and sexual abuse were found, greater efforts are suggested to detect these problems and promote primary prevention that allows addressing sexual violence using a multidisciplinary approach.
- The opportunity for dental professionals to help victims gain access to support and referral services and to provide adequate treatment to them to make a positive difference in their lives must not be overlooked.

NORVOLD ABUSE QUESTIONNAIRE (NOR-AQ)

	1 = No		2 = Yes, like a child (<18 years)		3 = Yes, in adulthood (≥ 18 years old)		4 = Yes, like a child and as an adult		No response	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
EMOTIONAL ABUSE										
Have you been continuously and for a long time repressed, degraded or humiliated?	25	50,0	3	6,0	11	22,0	7	14,0	4	8,0
¿Have you been continuously threatened and forced to control your contact with other people, or to control what you can and cannot do?	41	82,0	1	2,0	6	12,0	0	0	2	4,0
¿Have you lived in fear because someone has threatened you or someone close to you?	38	76,0	1	2,0	8	16,0	0	0	3	6,0
PHYSICAL ABUSE										
Has anyone ever held you firmly against your will or hit you in the face?	34	68,0	3	6,0	11	22,0	0	0	2	4,0
Have you been beaten, punched, hit with a hard object, kicked or pushed violently, or done something similar?	34	68,0	6	12,0	8	16,0	0	0	2	4,0
¿Has anyone attempted or threatened your life with a weapon or knife or strangled you or done anything similar?	41	82,0	1	2,0	6	12,0	0	0	2	4,0
SEXUAL ABUSE										
Has anyone touched parts of your body or forced you to touch parts of your own body other than your genitals in a "sexual way"?	44	88,0	2	4,0	2	4,0	0	0	2	4,0
Have you been sexually humiliated, for example by being forced to watch or participate in a pornographic film or similar, or to show your body naked?	46	92,0	2	4,0	0	0	0	0	2	4,0
¿EHas anyone touched your genitals against your will or used your body for sexual gratification or forced you to touch someone else's genitals?	44	88,0	2	4,0	2	4,0	0	0	2	4,0
Has anyone against your will inserted their penis or other object into your vagina, mouth, or rectum?	45	90,0	1	2,0	2	4,0	0	0	2	4,0
HEALTH CARE ABUSE										
Have you felt offended or degraded during your attendance at health services, feeling that someone is blackmailing you or not showing respect for your opinion in such a way that this experience has bothered you?	36	72,0	2	4,0	10	20,0	0	0	2	4,0
¿Have you ever felt that during a normal visit to the health services, this has become a terrible or insulting experience without knowing why?	36	72,0	1	2,0	11	22,0	0	0	2	4,0
Have you ever felt that during health care, someone has intentionally hurt you physically, mentally, overstepped their bounds by touching your body against your will, or violated you?	41	82,0	1	2,0	6	12,0	0	0	2	4,0