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Presentation

"Reducing health care disparities in primary care settings:
Interventions for domestic violence revictimization and
posttraumatic stress"

- Case Studies and usual care from a primary care perspective
- Study design and results
- Translation of knowledge into an impactful program in OBGYN

Case 1

- LH is a 76 year old female who has been my patient for ten years. She is a former hotel worker who was born in Jamaica
- At age 14 she was sexually and physically abused by her uncle.
- I was the first person she ever told.

Case 1 implications

- The problem exists and is unreported
- The pain persisted with the event clear in her mind 62 years after the occurrence
- Trust is hard to come by because these women often are violated by people whom they should be able to trust.

My options

- Do you think behavioral health needs to help you address unresolved issues? (Answer was no)
- What do you need me to do? (Answer: nothing)

My question for her

- Do you think your life would have been different if you believed something could have been done when you were 14?

(answer yes: I would have pursued my education, probably had a different job, may have married and probably would have had children)

Case 2

- DR is a 24 year old African American who was hit in the back and side with a baseball bat by her boyfriend.
- She has been with him for 2 years and it is the first time she was hit with a bat.
- This is her second abusive relationship.
- She is hopeful he will change

Case 2 implications

- Patient with an acute injury.
- This is a reportable offense.
- Often there is forgiveness and hope for change.

My Options

- Offered to call police and have charges filed, etc. (Declined by patient)
- Offered to have evaluation in Behavioral Health with counselor. (Declined by patient)
- Offered usual care including contact instructions to police and our health care system. (Accepted by not accessed)

Case 2 gaps

- Patients come in, need help and then decline offers.
- Safety net is porous and follow up may be non-existent or impossible to track

Rationale for the Study

- Approached with request for collaborative study
- Clear appreciation for the need to narrow gaps in care for this vulnerable population
- Ability to study impact of an intervention