REMITTED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND HEMATOLOGIC MEASURES IN MIDLIFE WOMEN

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IPV & AGING-RELATED CHRONIC CONDITIONS


U.S. population-based
Cross-sectional
Lifetime IPV occurrence
Self-reported conditions
Adjusted for health-risk behaviors and/or demographics
Collectively...
IPV associated with a spectrum of aging-related chronic conditions
(heart disease, stroke, cancer, joint disease)
-Men and women
Individually...
IPV temporal precedence
-Gender specificity

BIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS

Stress-reactive
Predict morbidity

IPV (remitted)

Biological Mediators

Chronic Conditions

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psych
- Stalking

- Inflammation
- Hematologic
- RBC count
- Hemoglobin
- Hematocrit
- Platelet count
RECRUITMENT & SAMPLE SELECTION

Inclusion
- History of divorce
- 45–60 years of age
- Postmenopausal

Exclusion
- Current IPV
- Chronic conditions
- Medications

RESEARCH VISITS

Visit 1
- Mental status
- Nursing eval
- Blood draw
- Benign questions

Visit 2
- Mental status
- Nursing eval
- Blood draw
- IPV, life stressors, dx interview

AGE & RELATIONSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Age at Study</th>
<th>Abuse–Yrs</th>
<th>Divorced–Yrs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
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IPV CHARACTERISTICS

CTS. Severe physical assault variety score.
NVIWS items: Specific stalking behaviors + fear and life threat (yes/no).

CURRENT PTSD DIAGNOSIS?

STALKED (n = 36) NOT STALKED (n = 32)

STALKED (n = 36) NOT STALKED (n = 32)
MULTIPLE REGRESSION

Summary
- Stalking history predicted
  - Higher RBC count
  - Higher hemoglobin concentration
  - Higher platelet count
- Years divorced predicted
  - Lower RBC count
  - Lower hemoglobin concentration
  - Higher platelet count
- Associations held after adjusting for smoking history and time of blood draw
- Past-year stressful life events: no evidence for mediation

LIMITATIONS
- Exploratory
- Small sample
- Select sample
- Clinical significance?
- Health behaviors
- Subclinical disease?
POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

• Stalking victimization, an understudied IPV type, may be of particular relevance for women’s health
  – Stalking, or fear and life threat?
  – Stalking, or marker of overall IPV exposure?
  – Is psychological stress of stalking unique?
    • Uncertainty
    • Unpredictability
• Effects apparent in healthy, post-abused women
  – Potential health costs may persist after IPV ends
  – ...and after symptoms end
  – Biological mechanisms?
  – Select, healthy midlife sample may underestimate effects
• Health of post-abused women deserves more attention