



Spousal violence against women in Tunisia: determining factors

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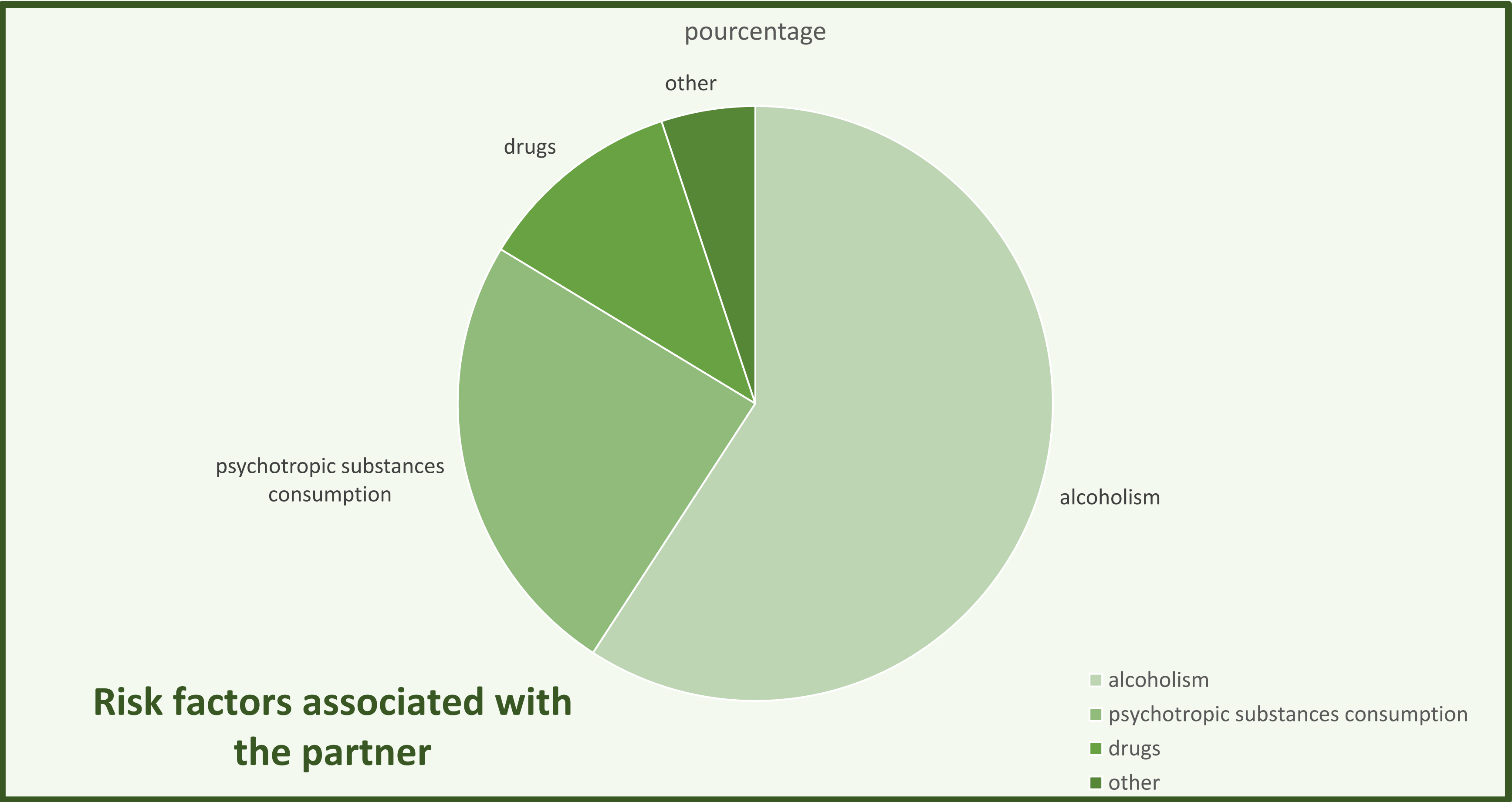


Objective: to determine the main factors of spousal violence in a Tunisian population

Design: a retrospective descriptive study

Methods: our study was proceeded during 8 months in 2022. A 15 questions survey was administered to spousal violence victims hospitalized in our department. All these patients signed an informed consent before being included in our study.

Results: we included 17 victims of spousal violence. the average age was 31 years old. five patients were housewives. the violence occurred at home in 86% of cases. Thirteen patients (78%) revealed that it was not the first episode and nine of them didn't filed a complaint in police station. On physical examination we noticed multiple injuries in 83% of cases. The face was the most affected part of body (64%) and the average of Total incapacity for work was estimated about 4.3 days. According to the partner characteristics, alcohol abuse was noticed in 58%, psychotropic substances consumption in 24% and drugs in 11% of cases . Sixty four per cent of the aggressors had professional activity with 27% being in a high post while 11% were unemployed. The violence against women was physical in 87%, sexual in 8% and psychological in 5% of cases.



Discussion : According to the WHO, more than a quarter of women aged 15 to 49 who have been in a relationship have experienced physical or sexual violence from their partner at least once in their lives. Estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence range from 22% in high-income countries and Europe to 25% in the Americas, 33% in the African region, and 33% in the Southeast Asian region (1). The National Survey on Violence Against Women in France (Enveff)revealed that 10% of women have experienced violence, 2.5% have experienced physical assaults, and 0.9% have experienced forced sexual acts. The frequency is consistent across different socio-professional categories . the alcoholism is the first risk factor found in many studies (2,3) In the United States, Jones (3) states that a woman becomes a victim of domestic violence every 12 seconds.

Polcastro and Finn, 2017	Coercive control and physical violence in older adults	Data analysis	5,103 subjects (US)	Experiencing trauma, poor health, low levels of social support, and living alone are signs. Associated with increased risk of physical abuse
Han et al., 2017	Factors influencing beliefs about intimate partner violence among adults in South Korea	Cross-sectional descriptive study	466 older Koreans	Low education, assisting parental violence
Altman, 2017	A crime at any age: intimate partner abuse in later life	Review	//	Cognitive bias, dementia, being with an abusive partner, substance abuse, isolation from the community
Nam and Lincoln, 2017	Lifetime family violence and depression: the case of older women in South Korea	Quantitative research	525 older Korean women	IPV risk and factor for depressive symptoms
Rosay and Mulford, 2017	Prevalence estimates and correlates of elder abuse in the United States: The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey	Quantitative research	2,185 subjects, aged ≥70 (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey)	Functional impairment, difficulties with activities of daily living, low social support and income, prior trauma, poor health, race, gender
Santos et al., 2017	Psychological elder abuse: measuring severity levels or potential family conflicts?	Research (cross-sectional study)	1,123 subjects	Gender, age (group more at risk: women aged between 60 and 69). Cohabitation is a variable relevant only to abuse as assessed by the stricter measure (>10 times)
Qin and Yan, 2018	Common crime and domestic violence victimization of older Chinese in urban China: the prevalence and its impact on mental health and constrained behavior	Quantitative research	Representative sample of 453 older adults aged 60 or above recruited from Kunming, People's Republic of China, using multistage sampling method	Over half of the participants had a mental impairment. Experiences of common crime victimization and fear of domestic violence are linked to risk factors for impaired mental health

Published studies on risk factors(4)

Conclusion: The findings provide compelling evidence of the potential risk factors for spousal violence, which in turn could help in planning interventions.

References :
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