

Domestic Violence

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Definition

- Pattern of abusive behavior directed by one family or household member against another.
- The definition of domestic violence now recognizes that victims can be:
 - Spouses
 - Sexual/Dating/Intimate partners
 - Family members
 - Children
 - Cohabitants

Types of Domestic Violence

- Physical
- Economical
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Sexual
- Threats

Physical abuse

- Physical abuse can include hitting, biting, slapping, battering, shoving, punching, pulling hair, burning, cutting, pinching, etc. (any type of violent behavior inflicted on the victim). Physical abuse also includes denying someone medical treatment and forcing drug/alcohol use on someone.



A physically abused victim

Sexual abuse

- Sexual abuse occurs when the abuser coerces or attempts to coerce the victim into having sexual contact or sexual behavior without the victim's consent. This often takes the form of marital rape, attacking sexual body parts, physical violence that is followed by forcing sex, sexually demeaning the victim, or even telling sexual jokes at the victim's expense.

Emotional abuse

- Emotional abuse involves invalidating or deflating the victim's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem. Emotional abuse often takes the form of constant criticism, name-calling, injuring the victim's relationship with his/her children, or interfering with the victim's abilities.

Economic abuse

- Economic abuse takes place when the abuser makes or tries to make the victim financially reliant. Economic abusers often seek to maintain total control over financial resources, withhold the victims access to funds, or prohibit the victim from going to school or work.

- Psychological abuse involves the abuser invoking fear through intimidation; threatening to physically hurt himself/herself, the victim, children, the victim's family or friends, or the pets; destruction of property; injuring the pets; isolating the victim from loved ones; and prohibiting the victim from going to school or work.
- Threats to hit, injure, or use a weapon are a form of psychological abuse

- Stalking can include following the victim, spying, watching, harassing, showing up at the victim's home or work, sending gifts, collecting information, making phone calls, leaving written messages, or appearing at a person's home or workplace. These acts individually are typically legal, but any of these behaviors done continuously results in a stalking crime.
- Cyberstalking refers to online action or repeated emailing that inflicts substantial emotional distress in the recipient.

How to recognize it as a doctor?

Physical signs of domestic violence

- The more obvious physical signs of domestic violence include physical injuries such as bruises or contusions or cuts that can result from being struck, choked, or thrown down. Victims of domestic violence may also suffer from sprains or fractures from being thrown, pushed, or struck.

Non-physical signs of domestic violence

- Non-physical signs of domestic abuse are the product of the psycho-social and emotional toll domestic abuse can impose upon a victim. These signs include the results of domestic violence or abuse can be very long-lasting. People who are abused by a spouse or intimate partner may develop:

- Difficulty sleeping
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Low self-esteem
- Anger
- Inability to work
- Social isolation
- Substance abuse

- Agitation
- Chronic apprehension that something bad will occur
- Constant state of alertness
- Heightened sense of hopelessness
- Feelings of helplessness or despair
- Flashbacks
- Lack of appetite

What to do next ?

Domestic violence can lead to death

- So what is the role of Forensic Doctor in Determining domestic violence:
 1. Prove\Deny the occurrence of the incidence
 2. Determine the violence associated with it.
 3. The timing of the incidence and associated signs of abuse.
 4. The tool used in the incidence
 5. Possible complications; STDs , Pregnancy

Thank you