Prevalence and Factors Related to Intimate Partner Violence among Gynecology Patients *

Nanthana Thananowan, PhD, RN

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to examine the prevalence of and factors related to intimate partner violence (IPV) among gynecology patients.

Design: Descriptive cross-sectional design.

Methods: A convenience sample of 532 in-patient admitted at gynecology wards in a hospital was recruited. All study participants completed a set of questionnaires asking about personal characteristics, sexual factors, and history of being abused.

Main findings: The prevalence of IPV among gynecology patients was about 21.1% divided into physical (17.3%), sexual (11.5%), and emotional abuse (13.2%). Compared to non-abused gynecology patients, abused gynecology patients were more likely to be separated (38.4%), remarried (52.7%), low educated (53.6%), unemployed/students (19.6%), laborers (67%), to have income less than 10,000 baht/month (63.4%), to have insufficient economy (33%), in debt (35.7%), and to have marital conflict (47.3%) at statistical significance (p < .05). They were also significantly more likely to have alcohol abuse (35.7%), smoking (15.2%), drug abuse (7.1%), and gambling (14.3%) than non-abused gynecology patients (p < .05).

For sexual factors, abused gynecology patients were more likely to have early sexual intercourse at the age lower or equal to 18 years old, multiple partners, a high number of pregnancy, delivery, and abortion than non-abused gynecology patients at statistical significance (p < .05). Significantly, they were also more likely to have sexually transmitted infections (58.9%), vaginal douchings (49.1%), emergency pills (17%), and forced sexual intercourses by oral (9.8%), anal (8%), or during menstruation (32.1%) than non-abused gynecology patients (p < .05).

Conclusion and recommendations: Health care professionals should screen IPV and assess factors related to IPV among gynecology patients. The effective practice guideline to prevent IPV should be available for implement in case of the incidence of IPV or related factors being found.

Key words: abuse, gynecology, intimate partner violence, prevalence

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Corresponding Author: Associate Professor Nanthana Thananowan, Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University, Bangkok 10700, Thailand; e-mail: nanthana.tha@mahidol.ac.th

1 Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand