

**EFFECT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG OBSTETRICS PATIENTS IN
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT TEACHING HOSPITAL**

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted among pregnant women of University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital during their antenatal clinic days. The aim of the study was to determine the complications of domestic violence on booked obstetrics patient of University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. The research was conducted with a structured questionnaires each responded filled the questionnaire independently and thereafter, submitted it to the researcher. The study lasted for a period of five months and data were analyzed using the statistical package for social science version 23. The study revealed following complications: depression (29%), sleep/appetite disorder (15.8%), low birth weight (12%) and others. Husbands who drink alcohol or have two social habits had a significant odd to abuse their wives. Health promotion and provision of laws against domestic violence were recommended to help reduce the incidence of domestic violence and its associated complications.

KEYWORDS: Effect, Domestic, Violence, Booked, Obstetrics.

INTRODUCTION

Although our homes are often considered as safe heaven or our comfort zones, it appears to be the site of the most common manifestation of violence in our society today.^[1] Domestic violence or intimate partner violence refers to violence perpetrated against adolescent and adult females within the context of family or intimate relationship.^[1] Although victims of domestic violence may be male or female, 90-95% of the victims are women.^[1]

Domestic violence can also be considered as the wilful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault and/or other abusive behaviour as part of a systemic.^[1,2] Pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another.^[2] Every year, approximately 4-5 million women are believed to be battered by their intimate partner and accounts for approximately 21% of all the violent crime experience by women.^[1-2] More than 40% of all females' murder victims are murdered by

their husbands, boyfriend, or ex-partners. It is estimated that at least one fifths of all American women will be physical assaulted by a partner or ex-partner during their lifetime.^[1] It is also estimated that one (1) in every four (4) women are living with domestic violence.^[3] Domestic violence in Nigeria is a problem as in many parts of African. The Centre for Law Enforcement Education Foundation Study on Domestic violence in Nigeria reports 1 in every 3 respondents admitting to beings a victim of domestic violence.^[4] The survey also found a nationwide increase in domestic violence in the past 3 years from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013.^[4] In the Nigeria demographic health survey (NDHS) of 2013, it was noted that 5% of women experienced violence in pregnancy and this is said to be influenced by the level of education and employment status.^[5]

Violent acts may include threats, throwing objects, threatening with or without weapons, verbal abuse, intimidation, progressive social isolation, deprivation of

food, money, transportation or access to health care, hurting of feelings deliberately, slap and punch.^[1-10]

The complication or presentation of pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence are as follows: miscarriage, low birth weight, abruptio placenta, unintended pregnancy and increase termination of pregnancy request, postabortal complications, preterm labour, chorioamniotis, obstructed labour, intrauterine fetal death, psychiatric problems, irritable bowel syndrome, asthma, chest pain and headache.^[1-3,8,9] Others are marital disharmony, divorce, perinatal mortality, maternal morbidity and mortality, depression, eating

disorders, sleep and appetite disorders, anemia, palpitations, anxiety disorder and emotional instabilities.^[9-13]

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A cross-sectional study was carried out among booked obstetrics patients in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. The study lasted for five months. A questionnaire was given each participant to fill and return it to the researcher. Statistical analysis of data was done using SPSS Version 23.

RESULTS

Table 1: Frequency and Types of Domestic Abuse.

Frequency and Prevalence of Abuse among Participants		
Abuse	One forum	More
Frequency	146 (34.9%)	272 (65%)
Distributions of various forms of abuses		
Forms of Abuse	Frequency	
Shouting	118 (35%)	
Oral Abuse used	51 (15%)	
Financial demand	48 (14%)	
Beating	36 (11%)	
Keep late night	34 (10%)	
Extramarital Affairs	12 (4%)	
Forced sex	11 (3%)	
Other forms	10 (12%)	
Threat to life	9 (3%)	
Driving out of House	7 (2%)	
Throwing Objects	5 (1%)	

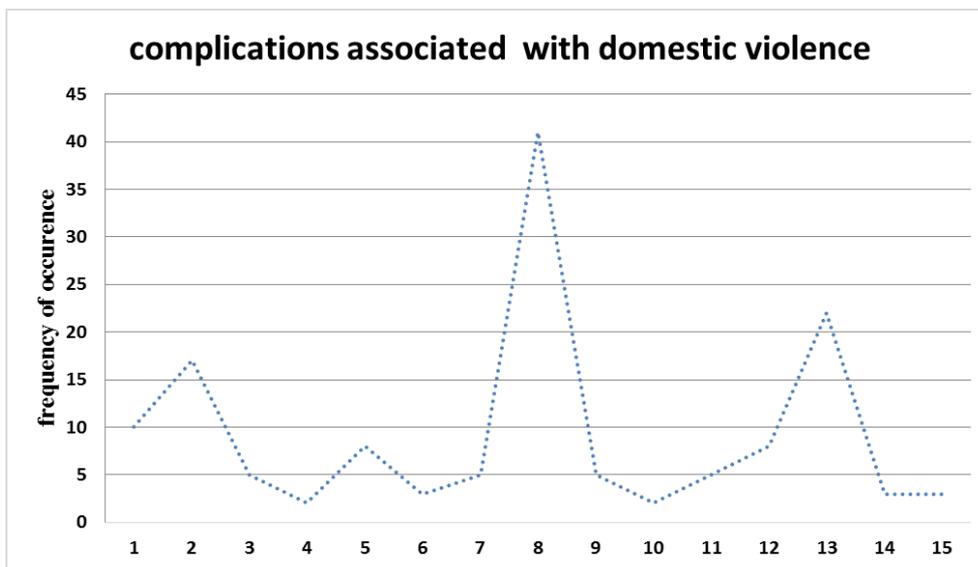


Figure 1: Complication of Domestic Violence.

Key to the above diagram

1. Miscarriage 2. Low birth weight (birth weight < 2-5kg) 3. Abruptio placenta 4 Preterm labour 5. Unintended pregnancy 6. Obstruct labour 7. Intrauterine fetal death 8. Depression 9. Marital disharmonies

10.Divorce 11. Perinatal mortality 12. Anxiety disorder 13. Sleep/appetite disorder 14. Anaemia 15.Chorioamniotis

Figure 1: Distribution of complications associated with abuse

From the above figure, the frequency of the complications of domestic violence noted was;

1. Miscarriage 10(7.1%), 2. Low birth weight (birth weight < 2-5kg) 17(12.2%) 3. Abruptio placenta 5(3.6%), 4. Preterm labour 2(1%), 5. Unintended pregnancy 8(5.7%) 6. Obstruct labour 3(2.2%), 7. Intrauterine fetal death 5(3.6%), 8. Depression 41(29%) 9. Marital disharmonies 5(3.6%), 10. Divorce 2(1%), 11. Perinatal mortality 5 (3.6%) 12. Anxiety disorder 8 (5.7%), 13. Sleep/appetite disorder 22 (15.8%) 14. Anaemia 3(2.2%), 15. Chorioamniotitis 3(2.2)

DISCUSSION

Domestic violence is on the increase among women in our various homes across the globe. These violence have brought several complications to women especially expectant mothers. This study revealed that the complication associated with domestic violence among the participants were majorly depression (29%), sleep/appetite disorder 15.8% and low birth weight 12% among others. Depression who is one of the complications that booked pregnant women got has the greater percentage and this could be due to psychological trauma they when through.

It was also noted from this study showed that there was a significant odd that husband who drink alcohol or have two of the listed social habits will beat their wife. This agrees with the accounts documented in other studies.^{1-10,14} This goes to emphasize that social factors are the main predictors of domestic violence currently and not necessarily affluence or literacy.

CONCLUSION

Domestic violence among married people have resulted to several complications such as miscarriage, low birth weight (birth weight < 2-5kg), abruptio placenta, preterm labour, unintended pregnancy, obstruct labour, intrauterine fetal death, depression, marital disharmony, divorce, perinatal mortality, anxiety disorder, sleep/appetite disorder, and anaemia.

It is considered a menace to the entire society especially with its rising prevalence of 34.9% as noted in this study. Addressing risk factors such as alcoholism, Smoking, extramarital affairs, keeping late nights and substance abuse.

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