

### Marital Violence: Prevalence and Risk Factors

S. HENTATI<sup>1</sup>, F. Charfeddine<sup>1</sup>, R. Masmoudi<sup>1</sup>, L. Aribi<sup>1</sup>, F. Smaoui<sup>1</sup>, E. Elleuch<sup>1</sup>, J. Aloulou<sup>1</sup>, O. Amaimi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>psychiatry, CHU Hédi Chaker Sfax Tunisia, sfax, Tunisia

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#### Introduction:

Marital abuse is a serious social problem that has damaging impact on women's wellbeing. Therefore, prevention and intervention efforts require determining the risk factors involved.

#### Objective:

Study the prevalence and risk factors of marital violence against women.

#### Methods:

A descriptive cross-sectional and analytical study carried on 50 married women without psychiatric history.

Data collection was conducted via a questionnaire exploring socio-demographics characteristics and the marital relationship.

Three scales were passed:

- The Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS): to assess verbal domestic violence (six items) and physical domestic violence (nine items).
- Maternity social support scale (MSSS): to evaluate the social and family support.
- Marital satisfaction scale of Azrin: assessing the satisfaction experienced of the wife at the partner's behavior.

#### Results:

The average age was  $41 \pm 11.5$  years.

Education level did not exceed the primary level in 64% cases. The socioeconomic level was judged to be average in 72% of cases.

The prevalence of marital violence in its verbal and physical forms was 72%. More than one third of women (44%) reported that they were victims of physical violence.

Low socioeconomic level ( $p=0,003$ ), low partner's educational level ( $p=0,049$ ), parental history of childhood abuse (0,002), poor marital satisfaction (0,001) and poor social and family support (0,01) were significantly associated with physical violence.

#### Conclusion:

Marital abuse in its various forms remains a worldwide phenomenon. Several risk factors inherent to the woman, the husband and their marital relationship seem to be associated with marital violence in its physical form.