

## **OP15.1**

### **Patient with abuse warning symptoms in primary care – are Polish physicians ready to react?**

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**Background & Aim:** Domestic violence (DV) is a major public health problem associated with negative health consequences for victims. Family doctors are in a prime position to both detect and help those patients. Only 0,3% of domestic violence cases in Poland are identified and reported by physicians. The objective of the study was to analyze the frequency of asking questions about the possibility of DV when seeing patients with abuse warnings symptoms and to identify the perceived barriers to react.

**Method:** A cross-sectional survey was carried out among 100 randomly selected doctors in Poland. The study instrument was a translated and adapted for use in Poland version of developed and validated in the United States questionnaire PREMIS - Physician Readiness to Manage Intimate Partner Violence Survey. The anonymous questionnaire included five sections: respondents' characteristics, perceived readiness and knowledge, practical issues, actual knowledge and opinions. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square test were used for statistical analysis.

**Results:** The sample included 54 primary care physicians. Most of the respondents (65%) were uncertain about their skills to recognize violence-associated injuries. Over one third of respondents (35%) never asked about the possibility of DV when seeing patients with depression or anxiety. The majority of the study participants (72%) felt being not able to gather the necessary information to identify abuse as the underlying cause of patient illnesses. Only 13% of the physicians admitted having screening methods for DV. The respondents declared that the most common declared barriers to screening for DV cases were lack of time and lack of knowledge, how to manage the case.

**Conclusions:** Domestic violence recognition in primary care in Poland seems to be insufficient. Further efforts should be undertaken to escalate level of preparedness of general practitioners to manage DV in everyday medical practice.