Pre-Congress Course: Responding to needs of women affected by IPV and sexual violence.

Wednesday, 14 October 2020 between 08:30-12:30.

Course director: Marta B. Rondon, MD, Master's in policy and Services for Mental Health, Peru

Course audience:

The course is aimed at child, adult and general psychiatrists working in community psychiatry/ general hospitals and to all those working with children and women affected by violence. It is also of interest to psychiatrist working in public health, consultation/liaison psychiatrists and those working on this topic with NGO's or governments.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is the most common form of violence against women and affects, according to WHO estimates, about 1 in 3 women. It is a human rights issue because it denies them their rights and liberties. It is also a public health issue because it affects such many people and has severe health consequences including death and muscle-skeletal lesions, gynecologic and obstetric complications and other chronic ailments. The mental health impact is more severe: double the odds of suffering depression, alcohol and other substance abuse, anxiety, sleep problems and an increase in impulsivity and suicidal behavior.

Sexual violence perpetrated by the partner or a stranger is also frequent, often co existing with IPV. Most sexual violence occurs against girls, adolescents and younger women and it predisposes them to further sexual violence during the life course. The consequences are terrible: it is linked to post traumatic stress disorder as well as depression and alcohol abuse, and a variety of maladaptive behaviors and ill physical and mental health. Women survivors of sexual assault present with complex, comorbid, difficult to treat disorders

Mental health specialists play a very important role in the recognition and management of the psychiatric pathology. They also have a responsibility in the training and updating of the multidisciplinary teams that take care of the victims of violence and must inform the authorities about policy and services for the victims and provide input for preventive measures.

This course aims to provide a panorama of the latest evidence-based recommendations from WPA and WHO to provide significant care for the victims and contribute to preventive efforts in different settings. Faculty include WHO and WPA leaders in this field.

Learning objectives

By the end of the course participants will be

1. Acquainted with updated guidelines to approach women who have suffered intimate partner violence and sexual violence, including the LIVES model, and to disseminate the competencies to members of the multidisciplinary teams
2. Able to provide care for women with complex pathology as a result of IPV or sexual violence exposure and for women with previous mental disorders who have experienced IPV or sexual violence
3. Familiar with the components of sexual violence victim care, including use of rape kits
4. Able to assess the competencies to respond to the needs of women who have experienced IPV and sexual violence of their team, as sketched in current WPA and WHO recommendations, and to participate in pertinent undergraduate and CME education

References

2. WHO- UNPFA - UN WOMEN Health care for women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence A clinical handbook WHO/RHR/14.26
