



## Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



### Abused Older Adults: Solutions to Consider.

---

#### REFERENCE

Noël, D. and Lalande, G. (1991). Abused Older Adults: Solutions to Consider. *Le Médecin du Québec*, 26(6), 67-73.

#### TEXT TYPE

**Format:** Scientific article

**Content:** Continuing training

#### DISCUSSED THEMES

Forms of mistreatment at home, risk factors, barriers to reporting, law, prevention, intervention, burden and stress, inability, resources.

#### GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This article highlights the key attitudes required among practitioners to act when problems of violence against older people occur. First, the essential elements for creating the relationship of trust are presented, and then various means of intervention and prevention are outlined.

#### PROBLEM

The problem of violence against seniors is still little known, both for the extent and explanations. Several solutions are still to be explored.

#### METHODOLOGY

No methodology section is presented in this article.

---

## RESULTS

Older victims of violence, who are reluctant to deal directly with the subject, will rather complain of pain to their doctor, who will have in turn to be vigilant about signs of violence and try to create a relationship of trust and empathy with their patients. When the mistreatment situation is confirmed, the subsequent intervention must aim at breaking social isolation. Some legal avenues may also be used for cases of physical abuse, neglect and financial abuse, since provisions in the Criminal Code are already mentioning them. However, it is important to remember that there is no obligation to report situations of violence against seniors in Quebec. Prevention remains one of the important aspects of the intervention process. On that point, a special attention must be given to the caregiver to whom it is necessary to provide the support when he/she shows signs of exhaustion before the emergence of a mistreatment situation. In addition, preventive measures can be taken with the seniors themselves, particularly in discussing with them the relevance of acquiring legal protection and health care proxy.

## DISCUSSION

The discussion is included with the results presented above.

## CONCLUSION

They are often unaware of situations of violence, because they feel helpless and just don't know what to do. Since they are, in several cases, the only link between the health network and seniors, doctors have a key role in initiating the intervention process by identifying situations and implementing the first actions to counter violence.

## AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

The authors claim that it is essential to provide a clear process to enable the identification of cases of violence, to improve home support services and to establish respite services for caregivers.

## DRAFTING DATE

June 27, 2014

