



## Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



### Violence is Ageless: Preventing and Detecting Mistreatment Among Older Adults.

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#### REFERENCE

Clément, M. & Ouellet, H. (1992). Violence is Ageless: Preventing and Detecting Mistreatment Among Older Adults. *Intervention*, 92, 63-75.

#### TEXT TYPE

**Format:** Scientific article

**Content:** Tool development

#### DISCUSSED THEMES

Extent of the phenomenon forms of abuse at home, risk factors, vulnerabilities, consequences, obstacles to reporting, prevention, detection, intervention, burden and stress.

#### GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

This research project aims to develop a screening instrument for mistreatment against seniors living at home.

#### PROBLEM

Previous studies have shown that more than 4% of people aged 60 and over experience abuse, which represents 100,000 people across Canada and over 40,000 in Quebec. However, this problem is relatively unknown and practitioners are ill-equipped to cope with it. However, it appears that some local community service centers (CLSC) are aware of these shortcomings and are working to develop tools to facilitate the detection of situations of mistreatment against the elderly as well as intervention in this context.

#### METHODOLOGY

No Methodology section is presented in this article.

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## RESULTS

A procedure for evaluating situations which present a risk of abuse has been designed around two instruments, which include different types of observations and must be completed by all staff working with an older person. The first grid allows the identification of situations presenting a risk of violence by means of observation of individual characteristics, characteristics of the helper/helped relationship, family characteristics and situations of stress experienced by the caregiver. The more numerous the negative findings, the more the senior is at risk of abuse. The second grid allows detection of signs indicating the presence of an abusive situation.

## DISCUSSION

The instruments that were thus developed are currently being implemented within the in-home support service of the Centre de la Mauricie CLSC. This procedure of assessment of risk situations tackles the main obstacles in terms of screening and intervention in situations of abuse. This is also one of the first tools of this type to be adapted to the Quebec context.

## CONCLUSION

This assessment procedure stands out in that it stands from a neutral perspective to assess the risks of violence and that it places the family at the heart of services, rather than only the senior.

## AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Following the implementation of this procedure, a systematic validation of the observation checklists must be carried out and adjustments will need to be made if necessary.

## DRAFTING DATE

June 23, 2014

