



ROAD VIOLENCE IN A CHILD MALTREATMENT AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE EXPOSURE CONTEXT

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Aggressive driving behaviour has become a concerning issue, contributing to an annual increase of up to 7% in accidents, with up to 90% of the population engaging in moderate forms of road violence.

According to WHO, child maltreatment is “the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power”.

Surprisingly, no existing literature associates road violence with child maltreatment.

This study's objective is to describe a case series involving seven child maltreatment patients who have also been exposed to road violence.

DISCUSSION

This case series illuminates a complex web of issues - child maltreatment, intimate partner violence exposure, and road violence - typically studied in isolation. However, our cases reveal potential connections among them.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Medical records of the seven patients were reviewed, predominantly girls, aged 8 to 13.

The first patient faced physical and psychological abuse and neglect, possibly connected to intimate partner violence (IPV) involving the father, who forced the child into an alcohol-influenced car.

The second patient, exposed to IPV, likely suffered emotional and physical abuse, was transported without child restraint systems.

The third and fourth patients, siblings, experienced psychological maltreatment, neglect, and witnessed IPV between parents, reporting aggressive driving by the offender. and transported them without child safety seats.

The fifth patient, exposed to IPV, faced physical and psychological abuse and neglect, with reports of aggressive driving and legal issues stemming from road confrontations.

The last two patients, also siblings, were exposed to IPV and suffered physical and psychological abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse, all while being transported by the offender without proper safety measures.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this case series underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, and road violence.

A multidisciplinary approach including health services is necessary to manage these issues, by recognizing and addressing the connections between child maltreatment, IPV exposure, and road rage.