

Intimate partner violence and the risk factors for cardiovascular disease in women: A review of the preponderance of the literature evidence

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Abstract

Background: Data surrounding intimate partner violence (IPV) and risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD) in women are global health and social problems. IPV is a spectrum of abuse experienced in acute and chronic instances. Globally, 35% of women report experiencing IPV in their lifetime. In the United States, 1 in 4 women dies from cardiovascular disease, making it the leading cause of death in women. A literature review of the pathways between CVD and IPV in women may further demonstrate the biopsychosocial factors that mediate a link between the two chronic illnesses for healthcare providers to develop prevention and intervention programs for both occurrences.

Purpose: This paper examines the relationship between intimate partner violence (IPV) experience and cardiovascular disease (CVD) and determines if there is a preponderance of literature evidence.

Methods: We reviewed research on the different biopsychosocial factors affecting the relationship between IPV and CVD of women.

Results: As a result of our review of the literature, we formed a framework on the biopsychosocial pathway of IPV as a risk factor for CVD in women. Our proposed framework portrays how IPV experiences contribute to long-term biopsychosocial changes that increase the risk of CVD among female survivors. These biopsychosocial changes include chronic inflammation and hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis dysfunction, metabolic or endocrine dysfunction, and mood symptomatology.

Implications: Because gender disparities exist when examining CVD risk and development, the correlation between IPV and CVD risk in women needs to be explored. **Conclusions:** The Biopsychosocial Pathway of IPV and CVD and the Three Levels of Prevention conceptual framework, could provide a theoretical foundation and science for further research in developing algorithms on the relationship between IPV and CVD.

Biography

Rose Constantino is an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Pittsburgh, PA, USA. She practices family law, specifically in representing women and girls in intimate partner violence (IPV) relationships seeking protection from abuse. Her research focus is on developing preventive interventions in reducing the consequences of IPV.



Publications

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