

SCREENING TOOLS FOR CHILD ABUSE USED IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is a widespread public health problem that involves physical, emotional abuse, sexual assault, and neglect against children [1,2].

Primary health care physicians are key figures in recognizing it [3,4].

AIM

To appraise the variety of children under 18 years old abuse screening tools used in primary health care.

METHODS

- The PRISMA guidelines.
- Databases: PubMed, Science Direct.
- A combination of keywords:

child abuse, child maltreatment, child neglect, screening tools, instrument, screening, measurement, tool, scale, questionnaire, primary health care, general practitioner.

- The inclusion criteria: full-text articles in the English language, screening tools designed for use by primary healthcare professionals, research subjects - children under 18 years old screened for abuse.
- The exclusion criteria: studies published before 2012, meta-analysis, systematic or literature reviews, and case reports.
- Last search date - 2022 02 10.

6464
articles
were
found.

56
full-text
analysis

9
included
in this
review.

- The COSMIN and GRADE.

RESULTS

9 screening tools were selected for analysis [5-13].

The scales consisted of 5-31 questions.

Almost all tools are designed to screen physical abuse, minority-for emotional abuse screening.

The first group of screening tools is focused on interviews, physical examination, visual findings, and the mechanism of injury. Tools assigned into this category: INTOVIAN, BuRN-Tool, Escape, CST risk factor questions, and SPUTOVAMO-R [5-9].

The second group of screening tools (ERPANS, PedHITSS, IPARAN) might be characterized as assessing the parental risk: self-reporting behavior, diseases, or evaluation of the home environment [10-12].

The last group is similar to the first one but instrumental examination takes part in injury mechanism evaluation (FIND) [13].

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) 9 child abuse screening tools were used in studies from 2012 to 2022.
- 2) Most of the scales are relatively short-up to 10 questions.
- 3) Child abuse screening tools focus on physical abuse and neglect; there is a lack of emotional and sexual assault screening tools; however, one tool appropriate for all types of abuse screening is not detected.