

Dealing with Domestic Violence in the Dental Setting

Essential Attitudes for Professionals

Concern for the abused

- "I am concerned about your situation."
- "I don't want you to be abused."
- "I want to help you."

Respect for the abused

- "I don't blame you."
- "You don't deserved to be abused."

First Essential Skill for Professionals

Practice Routine inquiry that is:

- Confidential
- Non-judgmental
- Compassionate

Examples: "Have you ever been hit, kicked, punched or made afraid by someone who lives with you?"
or "How are things at home?" (HATAH)

Second Essential Skill for Professionals

AVOID questions that:

- Minimize the seriousness of the problem
- Increase the patient's sense of shame and humiliation.

Help Victims Understand Themselves

- They do not deserve to be victimized.
- People do care about them.
- Health care professionals support their decisions.
- Patients can envision themselves in a non-violent environment.
- Resources and referrals are available.

Jobs for Professionals

- Engage in conversations with women.
- Know the available resources
- If you have a life of your own, realize that she can too!