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## DENTISTS AWARENESS AND ACTION TOWARDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PATIENTS

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**Objectives:** To identify the potential factors that would predict a dentist's awareness of domestic violence (DV), as well as the factors that influence the probability of dentists to take the required action. Also, to list the common barriers that dentists face when managing DV victims.

**Methods:** In this cross-sectional study, a self-administered, structured questionnaire was sent randomly to dentists practicing in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The online survey link was emailed with a cover message that illustrated the study context. Responses were accepted from January 2016 until the end of February 2016. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 22 was used for data analysis. Descriptive statistics, bivariate and multivariate analysis carried out to identify significant variables at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance.

**Results:** A sample size of 151 responses were recruited. The result of multivariate models indicated that the odds of dentists' awareness and taking actions towards DV victims were influenced by their education, clinical experience, gender, practicing sector, and qualification. Lack of training in identifying DV and embarrassment to bring up DV with patients were the most common barriers for the respondents when treating DV victims.

**Conclusion:** Continuing education with regards to DV was found to be the most relevant predictor. More educational courses in this regard would empower dentists to support DV victims.

### Biography

Wafa S. AlAlyani has been graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry of King Abdulaziz University with a bachelor of Dental Medicine and Surgery. She completed online non-credit courses in Violence, Psychology, and Social Surveys. She started working on domestic violence research in collaboration with the Department of Dental Public Health, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

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