

# Sexual Abuse as a Risk Factor for Gynaecological Morbidity



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## Introduction

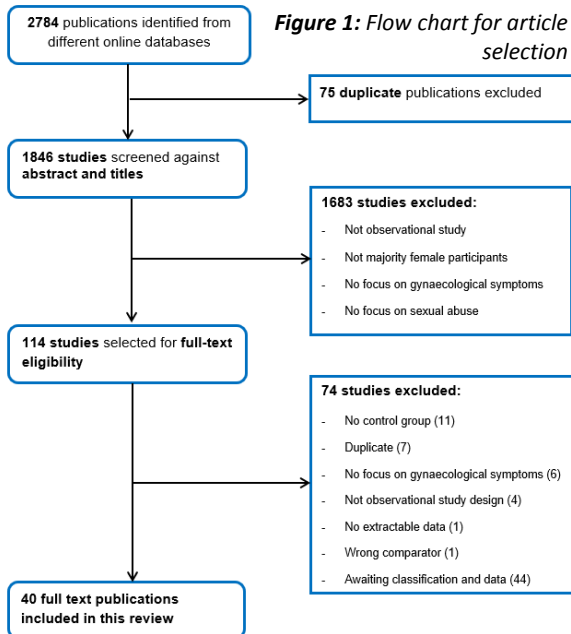
- Sexual abuse is a prevalent and serious public health issue
- 1 in 5 Australian women experience sexual violence from 15 years of age<sup>1</sup>
- Victims can suffer immense psychological and physical morbidity
- Pelvic pain and sexual abuse history has previously been researched<sup>2</sup>
- Literature on other gynaecological symptoms is limited

## Objectives

- Systematic review with subgroup analysis of gynaecological symptoms from articles published between 1993 - 2018
- Random effects analysis to determine relationship between sexual assault history and gynaecological symptomatology

## Methods

- Searched online databases of PubMed, MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO, Web of Science, The Cochrane Library and CINAHL
- Search terms included variants of 'sexual abuse' and gynaecological symptoms
- Articles screened by two independent reviewers



## Results

- 1846 studies identified and 40 included in review
- Sexual abuse history positively associated with pelvic pain, dyspareunia, dysmenorrhoea and abnormal menses
- Sexual abuse not significantly associated with other symptoms

## Conclusion

This meta-analysis showed an association between women who suffered sexual abuse and complaints of pelvic pain, dyspareunia, dysmenorrhoea and abnormal menses.

**Figure 2: Random effects analysis of gynaecological symptoms and sexual abuse history**

Symptom	Sample Size	Odds Ratio	95% CI
<b>Pelvic Pain</b>	8692	2.18	1.58 - 3.01
<b>Dyspareunia</b>	2074	2.31	1.79 - 2.99
<b>Dysmenorrhoea</b>	1807	1.61	1.30 - 2.00
<b>Abnormal menses</b>	4724	1.50	1.12 - 2.01
<b>Vaginismus</b>	983	1.78	0.86 - 3.70
<b>Vulvodynia</b>	459	1.90	0.98 - 3.67
<b>Vulvar or vaginal pain</b>	3340	0.54	0.16 - 1.83
<b>Urinary incontinence</b>	3754	1.05	0.43 - 2.51
<b>Vaginal prolapse</b>	1833	1.06	0.42 - 2.66

### References:

1. 'Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia', Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018
2. 'Is chronic pelvic pain (CPP) associated with a history of sexual abuse? A systematic review and meta-analysis', BJOG, 2015