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### **Characteristics of gender based violence-related trauma of females: A three-month analysis at a District General Hospital, Gampaha, Sri Lanka**

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**Background:** Violence-related trauma of females is a significant global health concern, with severe physical and psychological impacts. This study aims to analyze the characteristics and prevalence of violence related trauma admissions at the Surgical Female Unit of the District General Hospital Gampaha, over 3 months.

**Method:** Retrospectively, bed head tickets were perused and a total of 920 trauma admissions of females were identified. Of that violence-related 94 cases (10.2%) were included in the study. Anonymous data was collected from December 15, 2024, to March 15, 2025. Demographic data and assault-related data were extracted from medical records, focusing on the perpetrator, injury type, affected body areas, and legal actions pursued and entered into a preplanned worksheet and analyzed.

**Results:** Most assault victims were aged 19-45 years (54%), with an age range of 8 to 80 years and were married (70.2%). The primary perpetrators were spouses/partners (38%) and friends/known individuals (39.3%). Most assaults occurred within the home (61.7%). Physical violence without weapons (45.7%) was the most common, followed by sharp weapons (11.7%). Head and neck injuries (23.4%) were prevalent, and multiple injuries were seen in 40.4% of cases. Despite the injuries, 41.6% of patients were discharged after one day, with no fatalities recorded. Legal action was pursued in 67% of cases, highlighting the importance of legal interventions.

**Conclusion:** This study illustrates the widespread nature of GBV, particularly in domestic settings, from a known person using blunt force. It emphasizes the need for stronger support systems, better reporting mechanisms, and robust legal frameworks to address and prevent GBV. Healthcare providers and policymakers play a crucial role in combating this ongoing issue.

**Keywords:** Gender-based violence, trauma, domestic violence, assault, healthcare.