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Research and validation of ODIVA*

testing (*Outil de dépistage et
d'intervention des victimes aînées, a tool
developed to screen and aid victimized
seniors) :

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ODIVA testing is based on an analysis
of 360 situations involving seniors who
are victims of violence or mistreatment
and who live at home.

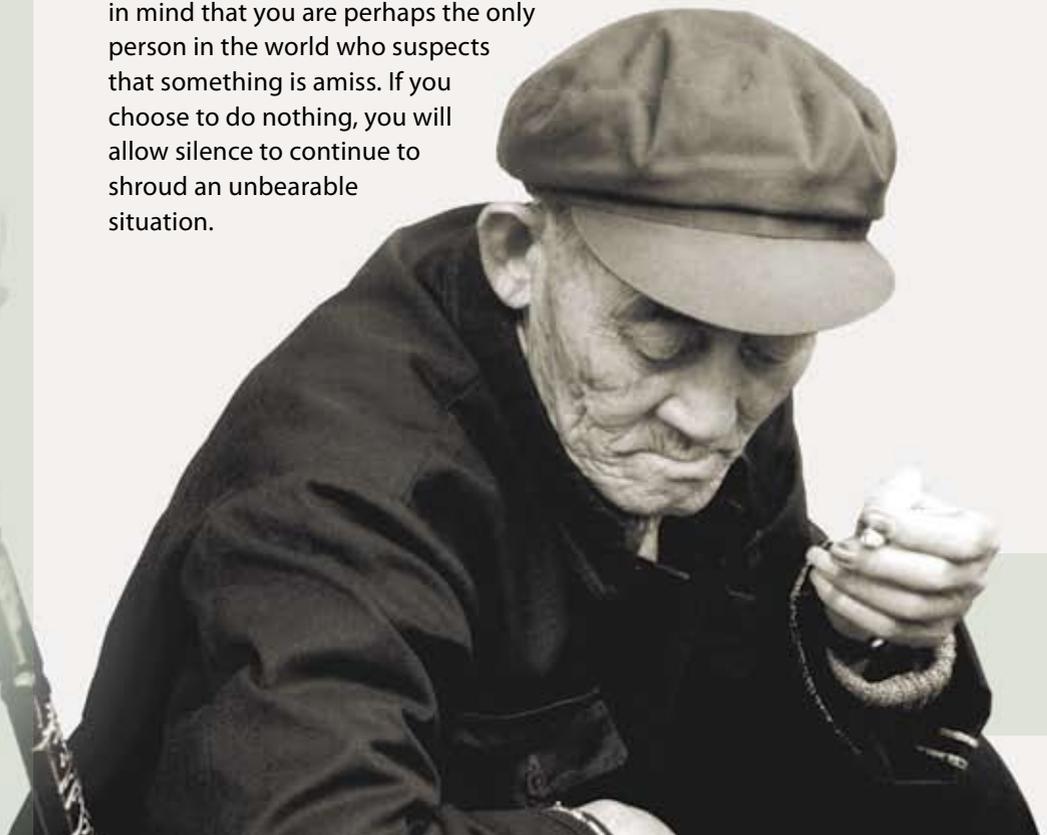
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Do you suspect that an individual close to you is the victim of violence or abuse?

Impossible, you might think! Never would a son, daughter or relative neglect or mistreat a parent or friend. Think again. According to recent scientific surveys, between 6% and 10% of all individuals 65 years of age and over are victims of violence or abuse. If you suspect that an individual in your family or circle of friends and acquaintances is a victim of violence or abuse, this booklet will provide you with the tools for initiating action and helping this individual. Violence or abuse is often insidious and victims are generally afraid to speak up or complain for fear of reprisals. They feel isolated and resourceless. Bear in mind that you are perhaps the only person in the world who suspects that something is amiss. If you choose to do nothing, you will allow silence to continue to shroud an unbearable situation.





Recognizing victims of elder violence and abuse

Discretion is of the utmost importance when it comes to validating one's suspicions with regard to potential aggressors. However, if one should decide against doing something to help, it is certain that many elders will continue to suffer their intolerable fate in silence.

Each of us must do our part and take action to put an end to elder violence and abuse. There are a number of indicators to evaluate the risk of elderly individuals being victims of violence or abuse.

The questionnaire on Pages 6 and 7 (Risk Evaluation Test) will help you identify these indicators and ascertain whether or not there is cause for concern. It is important to

complete all four stages of the questionnaire as they are all interrelated. If your answers to each of the four stages of the questionnaire indicate that there is indeed cause for concern, you must then seek out the assistance of a competent professional (Consult the list of resources on the back cover of this booklet).

Aggressors are part of a small minority... In completing the questionnaire on Pages 6 and 7, bear in mind that the vast majority of individuals who house or care for an elderly individual do so with a combination of exemplary dedication and selfless generosity.

TO INTERPRET RESULTS OF THE RISK EVALUATION TEST, TURN TO PAGE 8.

If you suspect that an individual close to you is a victim of violence or abuse, put your intuition to work. Evaluate the risk by conducting the following four-stage test.

1	If 'Yes' circle the number	2	If 'Yes' circle the number
EVALUATE THE PROFILE OF THE POTENTIAL VICTIM <i>The individual I suspect is being victimized...</i>		EVALUATE THE PROFILE OF THE POTENTIAL ABUSER <i>The individual I suspect is abusing others...</i>	
1 Is highly dependent with regard to basic care (eating and hygiene).	10	1 Is unprepared to care for someone who is not well.	10
2 Has received assistance from the same person for some time.	10	2 Lives with the victim and has cared for him or her for some time.	10
3 Suffers from a physical disability requiring daily assistance.	10	3 Derives no gratification from this responsibility.	7
4 Exercises no control over financial holdings or day-to-day financial needs.	10	4 Resents having caregiving responsibilities.	7
5 Lives alone and is over 75 years of age.	7	5 Is experiencing burnout or burdened by an overload of work and/or family issues.	7
6 Is incapable of expressing his or her experiences and emotions.	7	6 Suffers him/herself from health problems.	7
7 Suffers either from mental illness or a degenerative condition (e.g. Alzheimer's disease).	7	7 Has financial problems.	7
8 Is disoriented in time.	7	8 Is financially dependent on the victim.	7
9 Has little contact with his or her family.	7	9 Is socially isolated.	5
10 Suffers from chronic pain with little or no relief.	7	10 Does not receive or refuses community service assistance.	5
11 Shows signs of behavioural problems.	7	11. Is an alcoholic or addict or regularly takes psychotropic (mind-altering) drugs.	5
12 Lives with a family member and makes a financial contribution to the household.	5	12 Is a wage earner who receives no support or supervision for his or her caregiver responsibilities.	5
13 Entertains ties with a single family member who is experiencing financial difficulties.	5		
14 Is being treated for symptoms of depression.	5		
15 Is married and has experienced problems of conjugal violence in the past.	5		
	Total		Total
<i>Add up your answers. If the total exceeds '18', your intuition is likely on target. If the total is less than '18', chances are minimal that the individual in question is being victimized. Proceed to Stage 2</i>		<i>Add up your answers. If the total exceeds '18', the individual in question may be a potential aggressor or abuser. Proceed to Stage 3</i>	



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EVALUATE THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE POTENTIAL VICTIM. IT CAN PROVIDE INVALUABLE CLUES.*The individual at risk of being abused*

1	Lives in evident reclusion.	10
2	Appears frightened, distrustful.	10
3	Presents symptoms of depression, insomnia, loss of appetite, loss of interest in life and is given to frequent bouts of crying.	10
4	Appears too calm for comfort.	10
5	Is given to crying when mention is made of the caregiver.	7
6	Is given to abrupt mood swings.	7
7	Presents a neglected appearance.	7
8	Threatens to commit suicide or wants to die.	7
9	Requires the permission of a third party to answer questions.	5
10	Is not able or embarrassed to explain wounds.	5
11	Tells you that someone owes him or her money or that he or she is short of money.	5
12	Tells you that he or she is mistreated.	5
13	Expresses his or her intention to move or separate from his or her spouse.	5
14	Suffers from medically unexplained loss of weight.	5
15	Tells recurring stories of unexplained falls.	5
16	Complains of deficient heating or ventilation in his or her apartment/room.	5
Total		

Add up your answers. If the total exceeds '18', it is likely that you are dealing with individual who is being victimized. Continue reading. This brochure will help you determine what action to take and which resources to contact. Proceed to Stage 4

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EVALUATE THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE POTENTIAL ABUSER. IT CAN PROVIDE INVALUABLE CLUES.*The individual I suspect is abusing others...*

1	Complains about the behaviour of the elderly individual.	10
2	Belittles the victim.	10
3	Reprimands the victim.	10
4	Isolates the victim.	10
5	Harasses the victim.	7
6	Demonstrates aggressive behaviour (e.g. given to breaking objects, fits of anger, verbal aggression).	7
7	Appears distrustful and suspicious of strangers.	7
8	Is unnecessarily demanding.	7
9	Criticizes the victim constantly.	7
10	Insults the victim.	7
11	Threatens the victim.	7
12	Spends more money than would be required or restricts the expenses of the elderly individual.	7
13	Deprives the individual of required food and care.	5
14	Systematically answers in place of the elderly individual.	5
15	Threatens to interrupt in-home services.	5
16	Refuses to leave the victim alone with another person.	5
Total		

Add up your answers. If the total exceeds '18', the indicators would tend to confirm aggressive or abusive behaviour

Interpreting the results of the Risk Evaluation Test:

If you have identified indicators at each of the four stages and your total score adds up to more than '40', continue reading. In this booklet, you will find the information you need to determine what action to take and which resources to contact. Results suggest that you consult a competent professional.

If your total score for the four stages adds up to more than '75', the situation requires the intervention of a competent professional.

If you believe that either you or the individual evaluated is in danger, contact your local Police Service. Dial 911 and ask for the assistance of an agent specializing in the protection of seniors.

If you are a witness to abuse and the victim is not lucid or appears confused, refer to Page 10 of this booklet.

If you are a witness to abuse and the victim is lucid, refer to Page 11 of this booklet.

If you, yourself, are being victimized, see the opposite page for advice on how to extract yourself from the situation and obtain the assistance you require.

Need assistance or advice? Consult the list of resources on the back cover.