



## Computer-Assisted Screening for Intimate Partner Violence in Primary Care

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### **Presentation Abstract**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious public health problem with adverse physical and mental health consequences, particularly for women. However, abused women seldom spontaneously disclose to healthcare providers who frequently fail to detect victims of abuse. There is a strong need for effective and routine IPV screening programs. Computer-assisted IPV screening may offer a feasible and effective way of detecting victims of abuse. My research examines the *effectiveness* and *feasibility* of computer-assisted IPV screening within the Canadian family practice context, using a randomized controlled trial and qualitative interviews. The computer-assisted screening is potentially a cost effective method to obtain sensitive risk information without depending on healthcare providers' time. The results of this research are anticipated to lead to development of a low-cost and time-efficient routine screening strategy for IPV and improved clinical care for vulnerable women. Certainly, early detection of IPV is a vital step towards its prevention and harm reduction at the population level. Moreover, this technology can be used to screen for other sensitive health risks in a variety of clinical settings. Ultimately, this simple computer-assisted screening may improve the healthcare of several vulnerable sub-populations.