

Abstract – oral presentation
2018 NCTTP Research Symposium

Title of the presentation: A Best Practice Model for the Complex Care of Torture Survivors

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Abstract (200 / 200 words)

The Complex Care Model aims to transform daily care for torture survivors with chronic illnesses and improve health outcomes through effective team care.

Methods: A literature review of complex care was conducted that draws on the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma’s five-domain model covering the Trauma Story, Bio-medical, Psychological, Social, and Spiritual domains. Application of this model to a composite case of a child soldier torture survivor illustrates how complex care can be adapted for torture survivors.

Findings: Complex care will be defined as a best practice as it applies to working with torture survivors. How a complex care model can be adapted to attend to the unique historical and cultural contexts experienced by torture survivors will be articulated as well as conceptualizing how its 5 domains serve to integrate the approach to diagnosis and treatment of these patients. The benefits of ongoing communication and coordination of care among diverse treatment providers will be emphasized.

Interpretations / Conclusions: Torture survivors present with multiple and complex needs that are well suited to the application of a complex care model. Best practice calls for a team of providers who effectively communicate and integrate care holistically across all domains of the survivor’s life.

Key words: complex care, best practice model, torture survivors, five-domain model

Length of the presentation (should not exceed 20 minutes): 20 minutes

Audio - visual requirements: PowerPoint equipment