



School of Medicine
Program in Geriatrics

UCI Medical Center
101 The City Drive South
Bldg 200, Ste 835, Rt 81
Orange, CA 92868
(714) 456-5530 Telephone
(714) 456-7933 Fax

Inflicted Bruising Study Conceptual and Operational Definitions of Physical Abuse

Conceptual Definition:

Physical elder abuse is the non-accidental use of physical force by someone in a trust relationship that may result in bodily injury, physical pain or impairment of an older adult (age 65 or greater).

Clarification:

1. The perpetrator is someone in a **trust relationship**, defined as: A caregiving relationship or other familial, social or professional relationship where a person bears or has assumed responsibility for protecting the interests of the older person or where expectations of care or protection arise by law or social convention.
2. The victim's **vulnerability** is associated with aging, such that all victims are age 65 or older.

The Operational Definition of physical abuse for this study:

- Does not include sexual abuse
- Does not consider the perpetrator's intent
- Does include improper physical restraint, however there is a concern about defining physical restraint too narrowly when restraint can also be used to enhance the elder's safety.
- Does not include physical neglect or deprivation by others; these are categorized as neglect not physical abuse.
- Does not include threats with a weapon, but does include use of a weapon that "may result in bodily injury, physical pain or impairment"
- Does not include chemical restraint
- Does not require evidence of harm. Evidence of risk of harm is sufficient.

As adopted by LEAD Panel 2/17/06: Lisa Gibbs, MD, Solomon. Liao, MD, Laura Mosqueda, MD and Diana Schneider, MD