



Elder Abuse And Neglect

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Identifying Abuse And Neglect

- Not treating with dignity
- Loss of independence
- Locking up the house
- Not providing enough food, water, and medicines
- Verbal or physical abuse
- Isolation
- Intimidation through yelling



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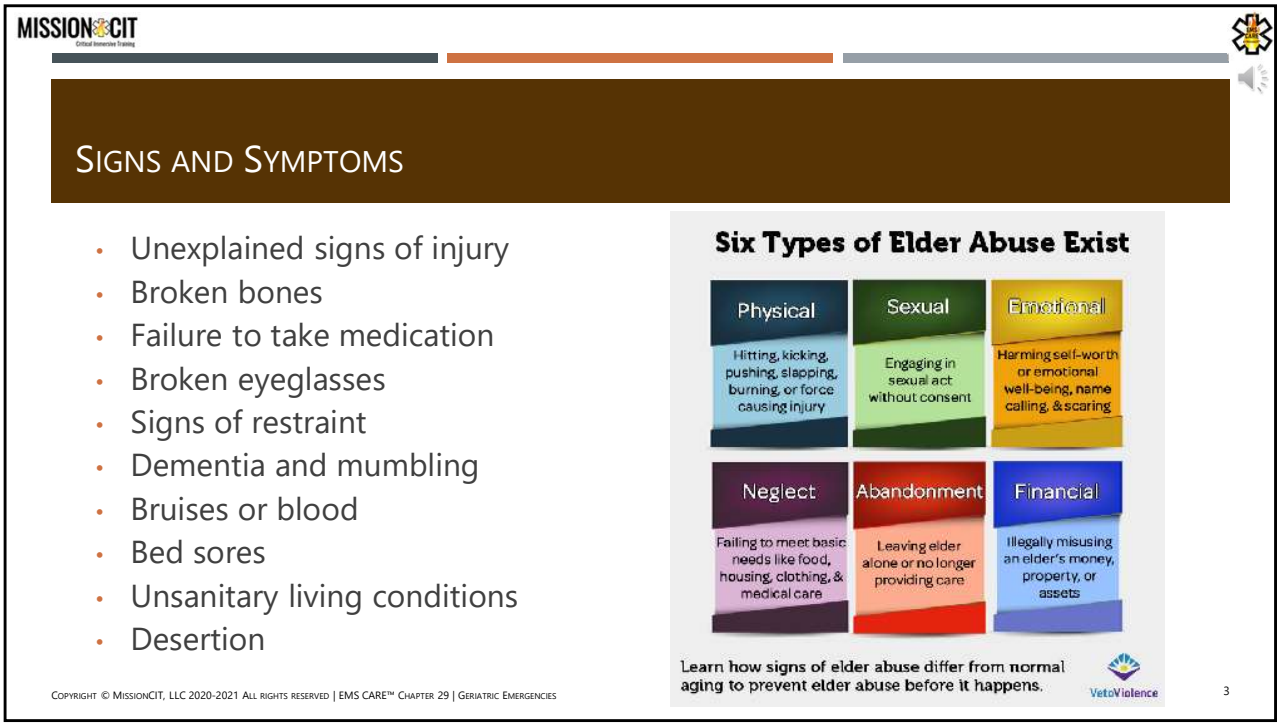
A senior can be abused or neglected financially, physically, or psychologically. Unfortunately, this may be hard to detect unless you're called to assess the situation, and you get to see the environment and the caregivers.

A key difference between abuse and neglect is that abuse is explicitly doing something that can harm a patient, while neglect is not providing the appropriate care.

Some of the possible abuse and neglect can include,

- Not treating a person with dignity
- Loss of independence due to illness or injury
- Minimizing fears and concerns
- The caregiver locking up the house and leave for a trip
- Not providing enough food, water, or medications for the patient
- Verbal or physical abuse
- Isolation, and
- Intimidation through yelling.

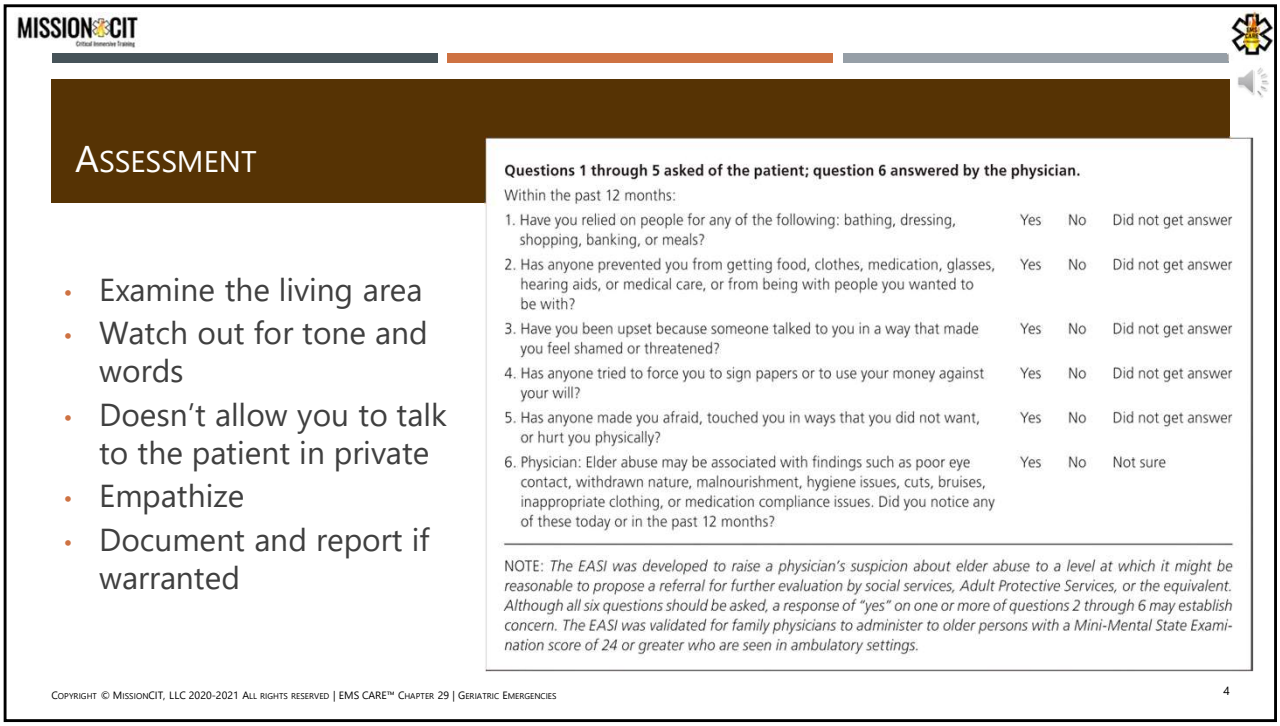
One or more of these actions impact seniors badly because they are at the end of their lives and are already scared, so showing some love and empathy can go a long way. For an abused senior, lack of empathy may leave the individual with massive agitation and anxiety.



Some signs that can indicate possible abuse or neglect are:

- Unexplained signs of injury
- Broken bones or dislocations
- Failure to take medication regularly
- Broken eyeglasses
- Signs of restraint such as rope marks
- Signs of dementia such as talking to oneself and mumbling or sucking the thumb
- Bloody underclothing is a sign of sexual abuse
- Bruises around breasts and genital areas.

- Bleeding or wounds in the anal and genital areas
- Unusual weight loss
- Bedsores
- Unsanitary living conditions
- Being dirty
- Unsafe living conditions, and
- Desertion and isolation



You can learn a lot just by looking around the patient's living area. While talking to the caregiver, observe keenly for the tone and words used to describe, and if you find any obvious discrepancy like an unexplained bruise or wound, it can point to neglect.

Similarly, if the caregiver doesn't allow you to talk to the senior alone, it could be abuse as the caregiver may fear the consequences.

Most times, neglect and abuse will be evident. Empathize with the senior and provide the appropriate care. Document what you see. Some states require you

to report any abuse or neglect, so understand the local laws, and follow them.

The State of Connecticut Office of EMS requires the EMT who suspects Elder abuse to call 1-888-385-4225 during business hours or 2-1-1 after hours.

With this, we have come to the end of this lesson, and Missah will take you through the chapter review.