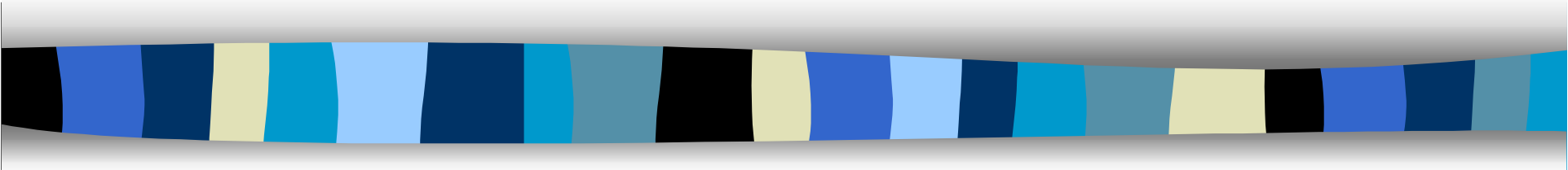


War traumatisation in N-Eastern Uganda: The need for a holistic medical intervention



Dr Eugene Kinyanda M.D.
Consultant Psychiatrist



Context:

- Half Uganda's population war traumatized
- Affected communities left to fend for themselves
- Study describes continuing health problems of the population of N-E Uganda



Context:

- At the time study was done in August 2001 North-Eastern Uganda free of war for 11yrs.
- On the surface region appeared to have got over the war
- A study to document women's experience in war conflict including health problems



Methodology:

■ Cross-sectional study

■ Questionnaire contained:

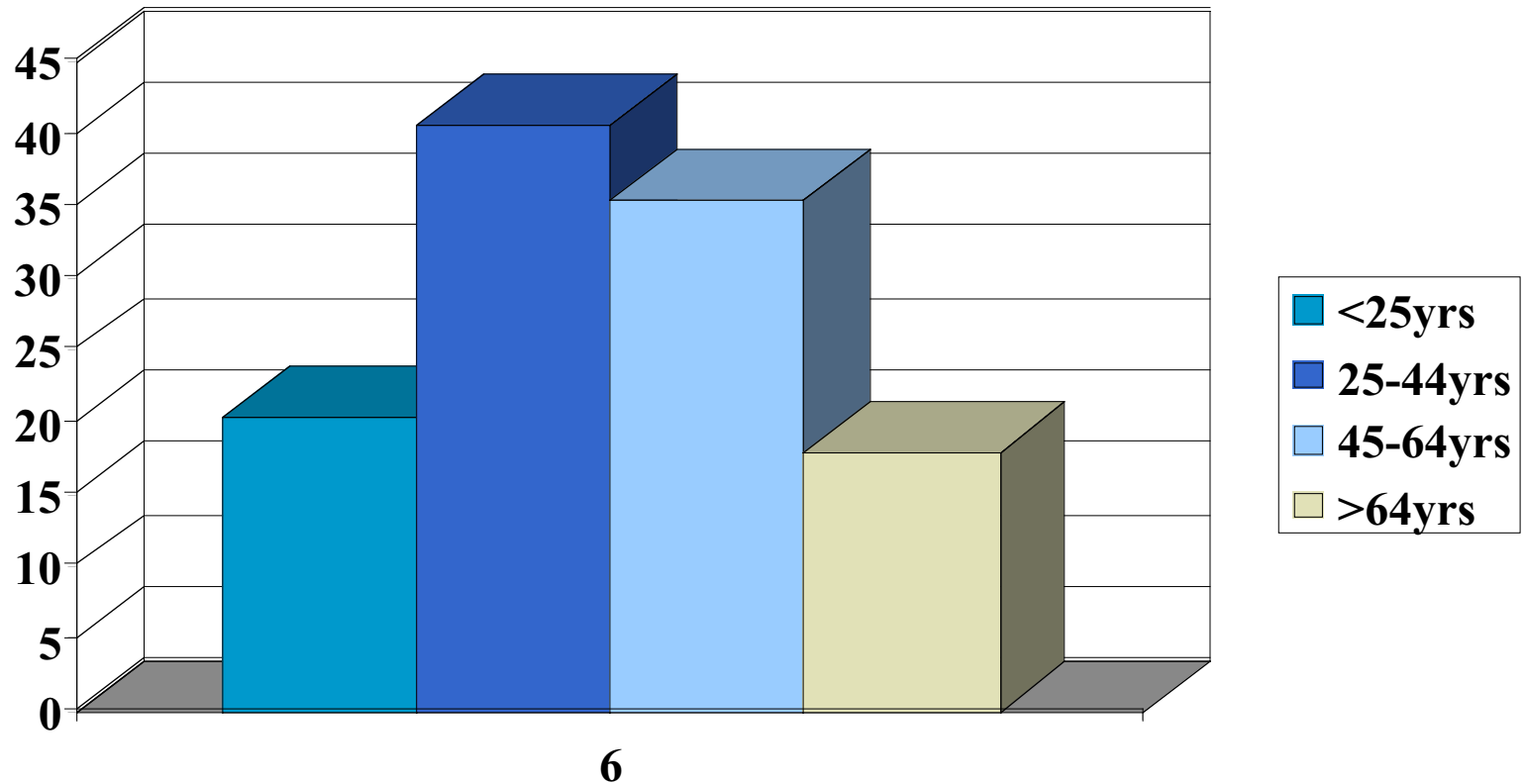
- psychological distress (SRQ-25)
- surgical problems
- gynaecological problems



Results:

- 826 respondents interviewed of which 582 (70.8%) were female

Age groups of the respondents:





Educational attainment:

- Most of the respondents had only 7 years of formal education
436 (52.8%)



Employment:

Majority were employed as
Peasants farmers 707
(85.9%)



Torture Experiences (n=826)

- **All respondents reported torture experiences**
 - **Beating and kicking 491 (59.4%)**
 - **Spouse killed 105 (12.7%)**
 - **Gunshot injuries 60 (7.3%)**



Perpetrators of spouse killing (n=105)

- Perpetrators included:
 - Rebel soldiers 45 (42.9%)
 - Govt. soldiers 24 (22.9%)
 - Police/ Prison Off. 10 (9.5%)



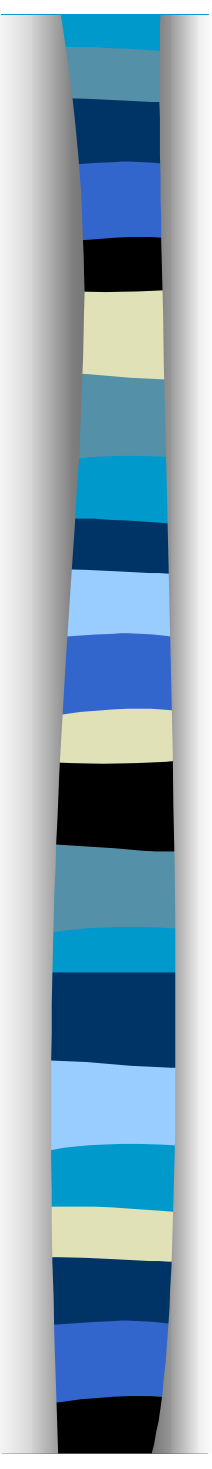
Place of torture (spouse killing)(n=105)

Most of the torture occurred in the Home 88 (83.8%)



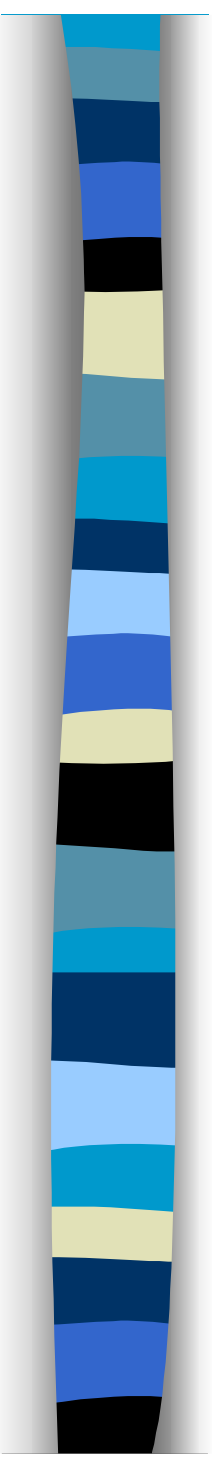
Psychological problems reported:

- **Significant psychological distress 600 (72.6%)**
- **Suicidal ideation 188 (22.8%)**
- **Homicidal thoughts 113 (13.7%)**



Gynaecological problems Reported (n=582)

- Gynaecological problems reported by 299 (51.4%) females
 - chronic pelvic pain 138 (23.7%)
 - Abn. vaginal discharge 37 (6.4%)



Surgical complaints reported:

- **Surgical complaints reported by 626 (75.8%)**
 - **Recurrent back pain 626 (75.8%)**
 - **Broken limbs 43 (5.2%)**



Conclusions:

Significant medical problems continued to exist in the population long after the conflict



Recommendations:

- Need for a multi-disciplinary holistic approach to war trauma treatment
- Interventions should also target the institutional perpetrators ie the police and the army