

# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIOLENCE AND GASTROINTESTINAL AND EXTRA-GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOM IN SEVERE VICTIMIZED NON-PATIENT WOMEN POPULATION" (Su 1358)

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## BACKGROUND

- ✓ Several studies (1-4) performed in patient populations report that lifetime and severity of physical and sexual abuse are associated with
  - ✓ Multiple symptoms
  - ✓ Severe pain
  - ✓ Unresponsiveness to usual treatments
  - ✓ Poorer daily function
- ✓ A history of physical/sexual abuse is frequently reported by patients with chronic gastrointestinal (GI) disorders
- ✓ It is not known whether non-patients subjects submitted to life-time physical and/or sexual violence complain of GI and extra-GI symptoms

## AIM

- To assess in women submitted to reiterative and severe victimization
- The presence and prevalence of GI and extra-GI symptoms
  - The association between the reported number of symptoms and abuse severity

## SUBJECTS

Women forced to leave home to receive aid and shelter by Italian anti-violence associations because of reiterative psychological, physical/sexual abuse or life threatening menace participated to the study

The women not requiring health assistance and without alarm symptoms were invited by the association female operators to fill in an anonymous self-administered standardized questionnaire.

## METHODS

Questionnaire is made up of two separate sections with the same identification code

- Medical section
- Abuse section

### Medical section comprises

- 4 items on demography
- 32 items on presence and characteristics of 6 categories of GI symptoms: Esophageal, Gastroduodenal, Intestinal, Ano-rectal, Bilio-pancreatic, and Abdominal pain according to Rome II questionnaire
- 16 items for extra-GI symptoms :7 urinary, 9 gynecological

### Abuse section comprises

- The Italian translated version of the sexual and physical questionnaire validated by Leserman and colleagues (5)

## Analysis of Data

The association between mean number of GI and extra- GI symptoms and violence score (0-6) was assessed by one-way non parametric ANOVA using Kruskal -Wallis

The multiple analysis according to Dunnet Test was performed in order to evaluate the intergroup difference

## Study sample

Three Antiviolence Association s participated to the study:

"UDI Casa delle Moire", Palermo

"Differenza Donna ", Rome

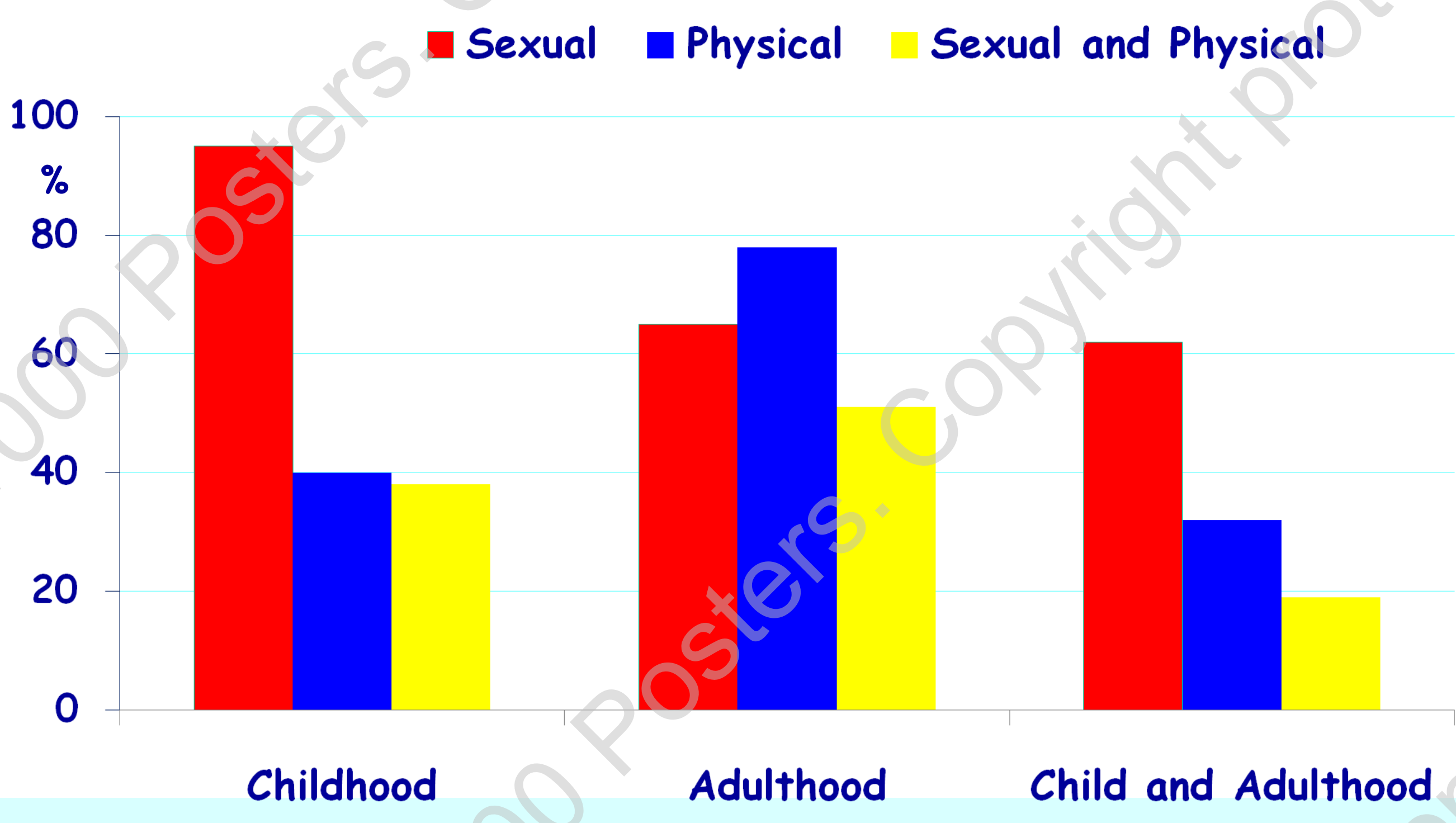
"Artemisia" ,Florence



Sixty-eight women filled in the questionnaires (mean age 34 yrs, range 16-56 yrs)

## RESULTS

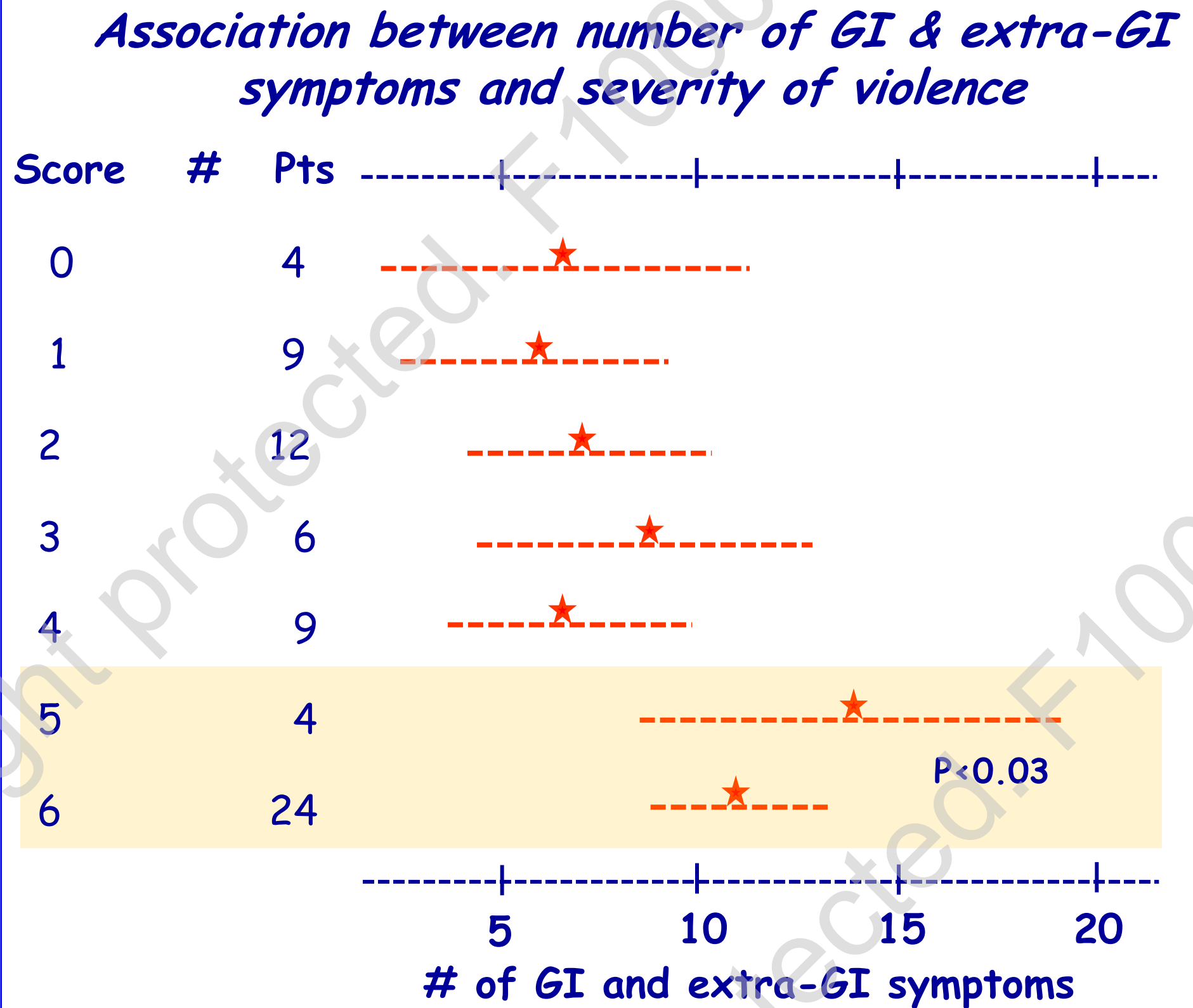
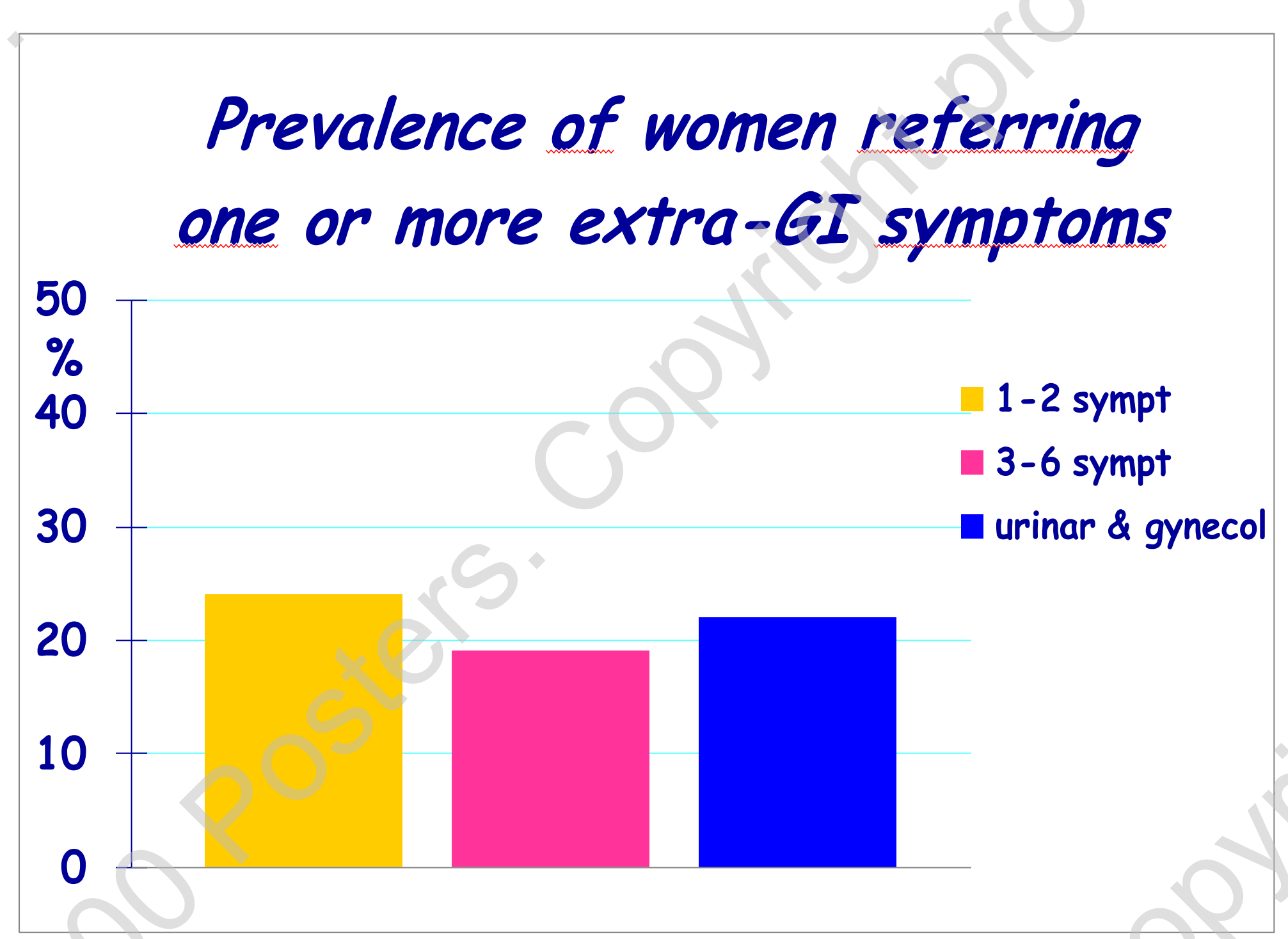
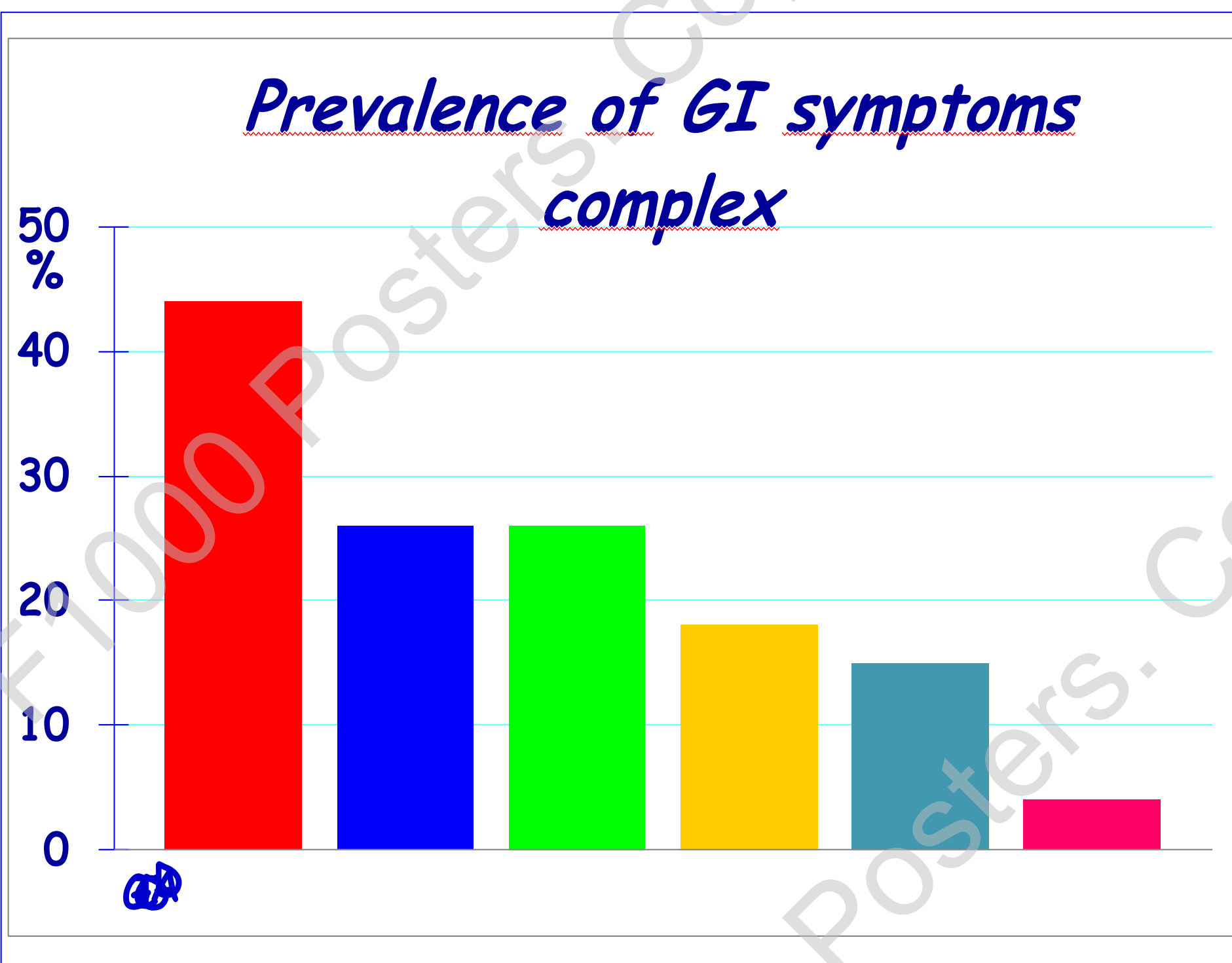
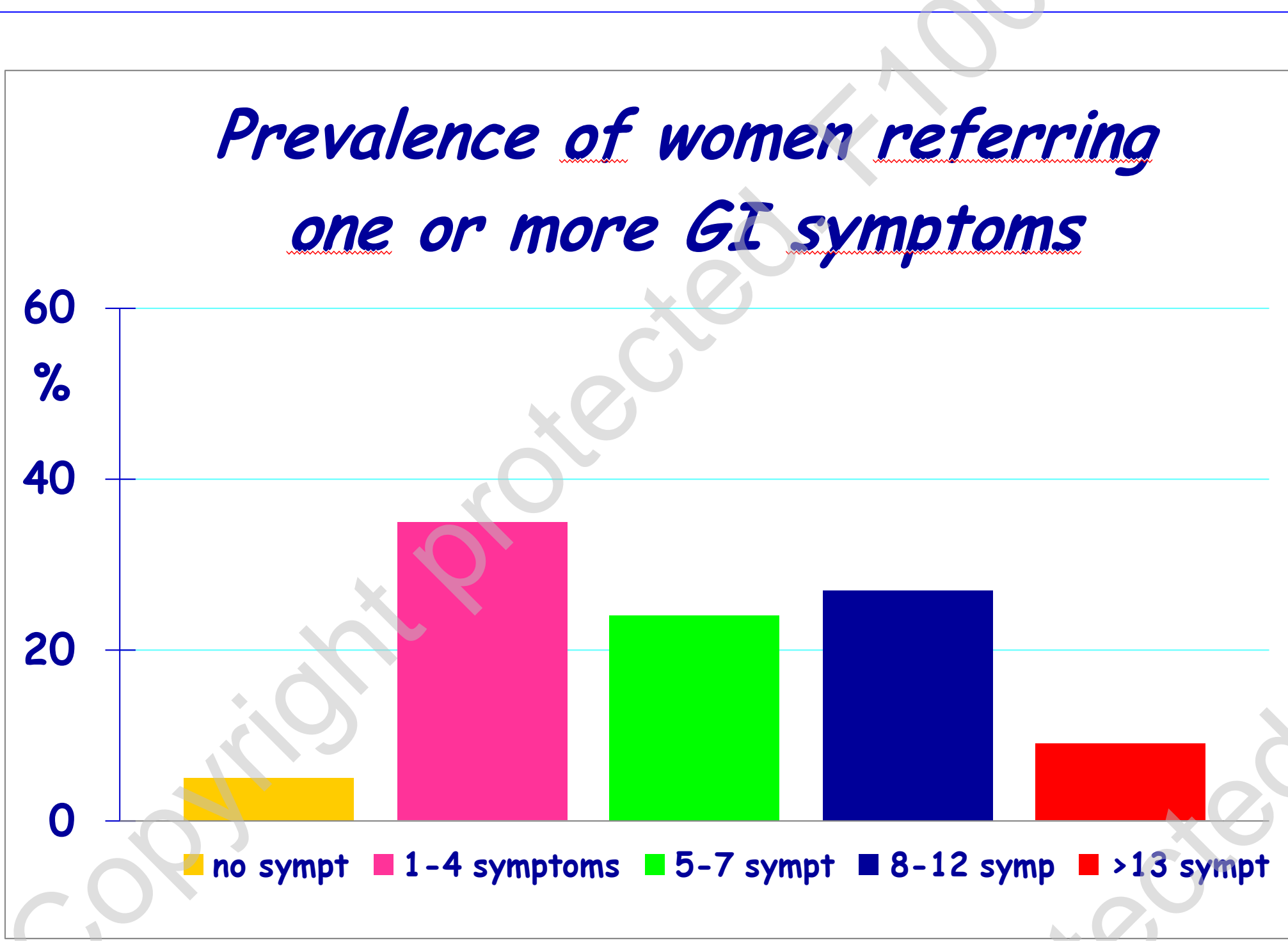
### Prevalence of sexual and physical abuse according to age



The author of violence was a member of family entourage in 85% of events

1) Drossman et al 1990; 2) Drossman et al 1996; 3) Walker et al 1995; 4) Baccini et al 1999; 5) Leserman et al 1997

## RESULTS



## CONCLUSIONS

- Italian non-patient women forced to leave home because of reiterative physical/sexual abuse or life threatening menace
- ✓ Refer several GI and extra-GI symptoms
- ✓ Number of reported symptoms increases with the severity of violence
- ✓ The abuse severity score may be misleading since cases of high severity due to psychological abuse are classified with 0 or low scores