

What is physical abuse?

- **Physical abuse is physical injury or suffering inflicted on an elderly person non-accidentally or due to the absence of any preventive measures.**
- Examples include acts of slapping, pushing, punching, kicking, and attack with an object or weapon, causing physical injury to an elderly person.

How to identify an elderly person is being physically abused?

- There are injuries on various body parts of an elderly person, which do not appear to be caused by accident:
 - obvious wounds/ bruises at multiple parts of the body
 - sprains, dislocations of joints and fractures
 - burns/ scalds
 - bruises reflecting the shape of finger, palm and cane
 - lacerations
 - internal injuries
- An elderly person being abused may exhibit unusual behaviour, such as having uncommon wounds but being unwilling to receive medical examination and treatment, making contradictory statements, frequent wandering around until late at night, in low mood, becoming depressed, becoming passive or being absent from activities in which he/ she used to participate without cause.

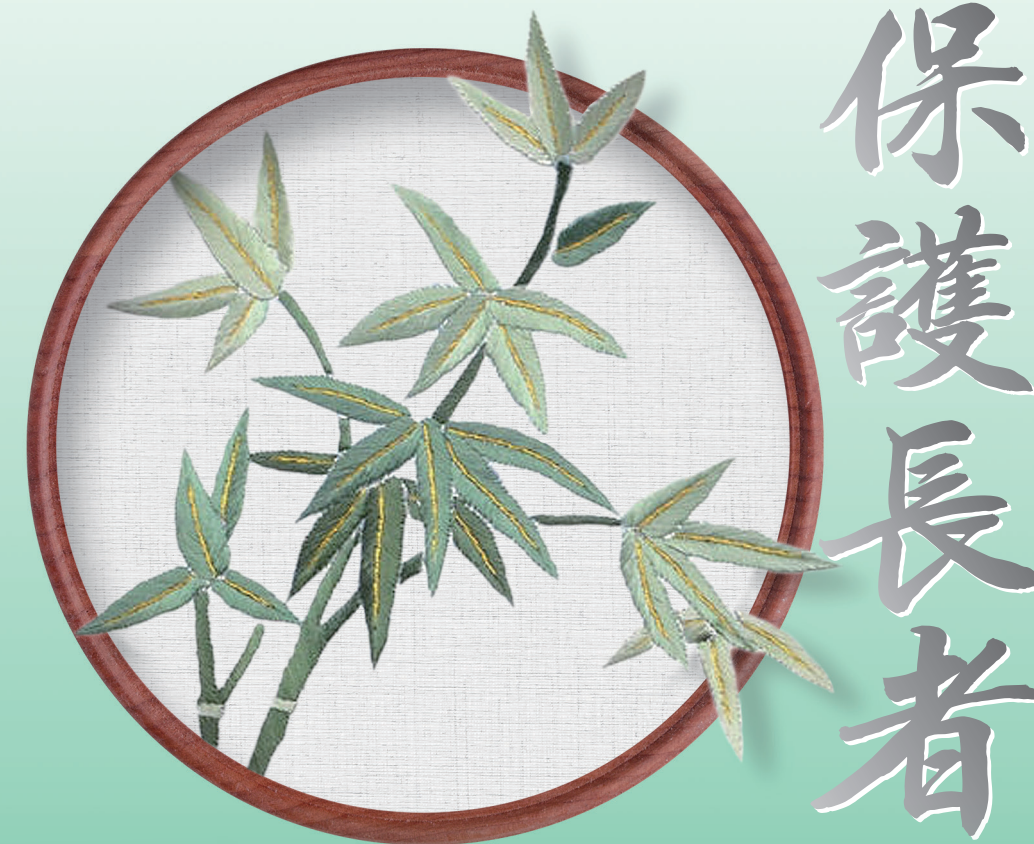
The behaviours or signs listed above may not necessarily be evidence of elder abuse. However, once they appear, we should be alerted and pay more attention to the elderly person. Where necessary, assistance of relevant professionals (e.g. social workers, healthcare personnel and police officers, etc.) should be sought as soon as possible.

What consequences does physical abuse bring?

- **On elderly person:** Apart from physical injuries, the elderly person will suffer from considerable emotional disturbance, which, at worst, may develop into depression.
- **On abuser:** The abuser may be prosecuted for criminal offence.
- **On family members:** If the abuser is one of the family members, the abusive acts will affect the emotion and daily life of the whole family. Other family members will be in a dilemma, feeling helpless and guilty for being unable to handle the situation.
- **On young family members:** Acts of the adult abusing the elderly person will set a bad example for his/ her children and young family members.

How to seek assistance?

- Persons in need of assistance may approach District Elderly Community Centres or Integrated Family Service Centres/ Integrated Services Centres in respective districts. Telephone numbers for enquiries and addresses of these centres are available on the Social Welfare Department website at <http://www.swd.gov.hk/>
- If the elderly person being abused is receiving other social services, he/ she may seek assistance from the social worker of the service unit concerned, who may arrange referrals where necessary.
- **Social Welfare Department Hotline: 2343 2255**
- **Family Crisis Support Centre (24-hour hotline): 18288**
- **CEASE Crisis Centre 24-hour Hotline: 18281**



免受身體虐待

Protecting Elderly Persons Against Physical Abuse

保護長者 – 免受身體虐待

何謂身體虐待？

- 身體虐待是指對長者造成身體傷害或痛苦，而這些傷害乃非意外或由於沒有提供任何預防措施所引致的。
- 例如：掌摑、推撞、拳打腳踢、以物件或武器襲擊，令長者身體受到傷害。

怎樣可留意到長者受到身體虐待？

- 長者身體上有下列損傷，似乎並非意外造成：
 - 身體有多處明顯的傷痕／瘀傷
 - 扭傷、關節錯位、骨折
 - 燒傷／燙傷
 - 有手指印、手掌印及藤條印
 - 肌肉撕裂
 - 內臟受傷

- 長者有異於平常的行為表現，例如身上有不尋常的損傷，但又不願接受檢驗及治療、說話前後矛盾、經常到處遊蕩到深夜、情緒低落、抑鬱或變得被動，或平日經常參加活動卻突然常常無故缺席。

以上所列的行為或跡象，並非一定是虐待長者的證據，但當這些表徵出現時，大家應提高警覺，多關注長者的情況，如有需要，應盡快向有關專業人士（例如社工、醫護人員、警方等）尋求協助。

身體虐待會帶來甚麼後果？

- **對長者：**不只身體受到傷害，長者的情緒亦會受到一定的影響，嚴重的可能會引致抑鬱症。
- **對施虐者：**施虐者可能會因觸犯刑事法例而被起訴。
- **對家人：**若施虐者是家人，施虐行為會令全家人的情緒及日常生活受到影響，其他家庭成員除可能感到左右為難及無助外，亦因無法處理問題而感到內疚。
- **對年幼的家庭成員：**成年人虐待長者會給子女和年幼家庭成員立下壞榜樣。

如何求助？

- 可聯絡各區長者地區中心或綜合家庭服務中心／綜合服務中心，各中心的查詢電話及地址可參考社會福利署網頁：
<http://www.swd.gov.hk/>
- 如受虐長者正接受其他社會服務，可向該服務單位社工求助。如有需要，該服務單位社工可安排轉介。
- **社會福利署熱線：2343 2255**
- **向晴熱線（24小時）：18288**
- **芷若園24小時危機熱線：18281**