

Sexual Assault Treatment Unit Services

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Introduction - 1

Rape is ubiquitous:

- every culture, class and race
- prevalence difficult to determine as sexual violence severely under reported

SAVI report 2002

- 20.4 % women and 10% men reported contact sexual assault as adults

O Shea Report 2006

- Standardization of existing services
- Expansion of S.A.T.U. services
- Pilot programme on Forensic Nursing – CNS Diploma course
- Addressing the gaps in the legal system
- Training for FMEs

Introduction - 2

Unit MGH

- Postpubertal >14 years, male and female patients
- <14 seen by local paediatric services
- Forensic medical examiner, assisting nurse + support worker from RCC
- Opened February 2nd 2009
- 6 medical or STI examinations
- 42 forensic examinations
- Most cases 26-35 years – weekends

Location of SATU Services

- Rotunda, Mullingar, Galway, Limerick, Cork, Waterford, Letterkenny

Dealing with a patient who presents to surgery post alleged assault

- Rape/Sexual Assault: National Guidelines on Referral and Forensic Clinical Examination in Ireland - Available on ICGP website
- Encourage to attend Gardaí – can have forensic exam up to 7 days post incident
- Advise patient not to wash, drink, eat, smoke or pass urine if possible before examination
- Keep all clothing, underwear + sanitary protection
- Woman presents with memory loss ? assault – it may not be possible to tell her if something did or did not happen to her
- If she doesn't wish to report to Gardaí suggest medical exam at local SATU if they offer this service
- Emergency Contraception
- STD screen
- RCC referral
- Would not advise getting involved with forensic examination outside of SATU setting
- Not the time to address alcohol/drug use - later

Forensic Examination-1

- Within 7 days of alleged incident (best within 72hrs)
- Not possible to carry out forensic exam without involvement of Gardaí
- History of events – to direct examination
- Top to toe physical exam
- Documentation of all injuries
- Forensic swabs + samples
- Forensic photography - SCO
- Toxicology samples (within 72hrs)
- Emergency contraception
- Azithromycin 1g stat

Forensic Examination - 2

- Referral PEP if needed
- STD screen follow-up at 4 weeks
- RCC referral
- GP letter if px consents
- All forensic samples given to Gardaí – chain of evidence must be maintained – all results back to the Gardaí not the SATU
- Caution in interpretation of genital injury + cannot say if semen/vaginal fluid on visual exam

Medical Examination

- Documentation of injuries
- Cannot take forensic swabs or toxicology
- Emergency contraception
- STD screen referral
- RCC referral
- GP letter
- Some patients may prefer this to be done by GP

Training for FMEs

- Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Medicine – Sexual Assault Examination
- UCD
- Next intake January 2010
- 2 modules
- Taught - 3 x Friday/Saturdays in UCD
- Case Book – 10 cases

Reports

- Report requested by Gardaí
- Standard report format used in SATUs
- Caution in interpretation of genital injuries
- File prepared for DPP
- Central Criminal Court