

UNIT 7: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Educational Topic 57: Sexual Assault

Rationale: Individuals who are the victims of sexual assault often have significant physical and emotional sequelae. Early medical management and patient support is warranted.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

A student should be able to:

- Identify patients at increased risk for sexual assault
- Describe the medical and psychosocial management of a victim of sexual assault

TEACHING CASE

CASE: A 24 year-old woman presents to the emergency department at 2:00 am. She reports that she was studying with a classmate who asked her to come to his apartment to continue their work. They were talking about the project when he kissed her. She became uncomfortable when he tried to go further and asked him to stop. She stated that she was then held down while her clothes were removed and was forced to have sex. She is tearful, distraught, agitated and reports that she had a glass of wine while they were working.

Her past medical history reveals no allergies, no medications, and no hospitalizations. Review of systems and family history are unremarkable. Social history reveals that she is a graduate student in the Humanities. She does not regularly use drugs or alcohol.

COMPETENCY-BASED DISCUSSION & KEY TEACHING POINTS:

Competencies addressed:

- Patient Care
- Medical Knowledge
- Systems-Based Practice
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills

1. What are the key components of the care in this scenario?

2. What is the epidemiology of sexual assault?

3. What are risk factors for becoming a perpetrator of sexual assault?

4. What laboratory tests are indicated for this patient?

5. Which medications should this patient be offered acutely?

6. This patient is so satisfied with her care that she remains in your practice for the next 30 years. What potential long-term sequelae should you screen for?

REFERENCES

Beckman CRB, et al. Obstetrics and Gynecology. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2013.

Hacker NF, Moore JG, et al. Essentials of Obstetrics and Gynecology. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2010.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention and Control 1-800-CDC-INFO • www.cdc.gov/injury • cdcinfo@cdc.gov

Rape and Incest National Network. <http://www.rainn.org>