

PATIENT CARE POLICY
Emergency Department

Title: Photocolposcopic Exam in the Care of the Sexual Assault Patient

Original Date: _____ **Review Dates:** _____
Revision Dates: _____

Policy:

The first priority of the Forensic Nurse Examiner is to provide appropriate medical care for any injury that may be present in the sexual assault survivor. After appropriate care has been rendered, a comprehensive exam will be conducted for the purpose of forensic evidence collection, which may include photographs of genital and/or body surface trauma.

Standard of Care:

Documentation of the traumatic injury associated with adult and child sexual abuse can be an important tool. A photocolposcopic exam can provide photographic documentation that augments the examiners narrative description, can eliminate the need for repeated examinations, and establish a photographic baseline in children who may present for repeated exams in suspected abuse situations.

Standard of Practice:

1. Turn on the switches for the camera and the colposcope.
2. Take a picture of a patient's label with their correct name, medical record number, and the date visible, or write this information on a piece of paper and photograph this information on the first exposure for identification.
3. Check the light filter, white is usually best for ano-genital trauma.
4. Manually adjust the eye pieces for your comfort.
5. Focus with the lowest power of magnification. (Knob on the right)
6. Slowly adjust gross focus by moving the colposcope closer or farther away from the patient.
7. Adjust fine focus. (Left sided knob)
8. In adult and adolescent female patients, photos of the external genitalia should be taken BEFORE speculum insertion.
9. Evaluate the ano-genital structures in every patient by looking through the scope prior to or during photography.
10. Use a systematic approach to photographing the following structures:
 - A. Clitoris and clitoral hood
 - B. Periurethral area and urethra
 - C. Labia majora and minora
 - D. Hymen (utilizing separation and traction techniques)
 - E. Fossa Navicularis, area at the base of the hymen
 - F. Posterior fourchette
 - G. Perineum
 - H. Anus, visualizing 360 degrees and keeping the camera level with the anus for photographs.
 - I. Cervix following speculum insertion.

11. In the event that the sexual assault patient is male, use a systematic approach to photographing the following structures:
 - A. Supra pubic region
 - B. Penis, shaft and glans, status of circumcision.
 - C. Scrotum
 - D. Anus
 - E. Buttocks
12. Use as many photographs as needed to accurately document ano-genital structure and presence or absence of injury.
13. When you have completed the colposcope exam, ensure that the colposcope has captured the patient images.
14. Back up the colposcope images to the IQ back up CD prior to turning off machine.