

PATIENT CARE POLICY
Emergency Department

Title: Toluidine Blue Used for Sexual Assault Exam

Original Date: _____

Review Dates: _____

Revision Dates: _____

Toluidine Blue 1% Aqueous Solution

External Use Only

Can be used to highlight injury seen during the detailed ano-genital exam.

Policy

Toluidine blue is not used to screen for injury. Toluidine blue is useful to highlight injuries that a lay audience would find difficult to appreciate.

Standard of care:

Toluidine blue is a nuclear stain commonly used in gynecologic practice to detect vulvar cancer. Since normal vulvar skin contains no nuclei, it will not bind the dye. Lacerations that expose the deeper dermis will bind toluidine blue. Toluidine blue may be used on external genitalia; ie, labia majora, minora and posterior fourchette. It may also be used on the perineal and peri-anal area. The dye is not to be used on mucosal surfaces as results are difficult to interpret.

Standard of Practice:

Supplies:

Single use application of 1% aqueous solution of Toluidine Blue Dye (T-Blue swabs)

Small cotton swabs

Squirt bottle containing 1% vinegar and water solution

Surgilube

4x4 gauze

Towels or catch basin

Procedure:

1. Break the T-Blue swab handle, instilling dye into the attached swab.
2. Apply toluidine blue to areas of the external genitalia where injury has been noted prior to insertion of speculum in the female patient.
3. Put towels, 4 X \$'s or catch basin under buttocks of patient. Using spray bottle of 1% vinegar and water solution, gently, with broad spray, flood the area until excess toluidine is flushed away. or;
4. Put surgilube on a small cotton swab and gently wipe away dye until it is fully removed. (May require multiple swabs)
5. If vinegar and water solution was used, gently blot the area with 4x4's . **Do not rub the area!!!**
6. Take pictures of areas of injury post dye.

Note: the patient should be advised that over a period of one or two days s/he may find small traces of the blue dye in her/his panties as the dye is gradually shed.