

# part 2

## 2.1. introduction to part 2

Part Two presents ten case studies, each of which contain educational objectives and activities aimed at illustrating management of complex issues arising from the wide range of possible presentations of sexual assault incidences.

In combination with the background material in Part One of this module, Part Two will equip you in:

- recognising behavioural cues that may indicate an adult patient has experienced recent or historical sexual assault,
- dealing sensitively and appropriately with disclosure of sexual assault,
- documenting disclosure by a sexual assault victim,
- prescribing emergency contraception,
- prescribing STI prophylaxis,
- performing a forensic examination in a range of scenarios,
- collecting and managing forensic specimens,
- forensic report documentation,
- communicating and dealing with police,
- identifying a range of injuries and injury patterns common to acute sexual assaults, *and*
- describing autopsy procedures for cases involving sexual assault and homicide.

You will also gain an understanding of:

- the risk of sexually transmitted infection in sexual assault,
- domestic violence,
- employment conditions of sex workers,
- common drugs used in drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault,
- mandatory reporting requirements in your jurisdiction,
- sequelae of childhood sexual abuse,
- the significance of informed consent,
- situations where it is not possible to gain a victim's consent and the steps to gaining consent for an unconscious person,
- the term 'chain of evidence',
- features of a standard sexual assault protocol booklet,
- issues associated with professional abuse of patients,
- the role of medical boards in cases of sexual abuse, *and*
- the impact professional abuse can have on patients.

The cases presented are composite scenarios based on elements of actual incidences of sexual assault. It is important to note that these cases are not necessarily representative of all sexual assault, or of the patients you will encounter. The cases illustrate possible scenarios and the complexity of issues facing sexual assault victims. They provide you with an opportunity to apply the learning objectives listed above in the context of what you have already learned in Part One of this module.

As you work through these case studies you will build a range of skills. When you have completed the case studies you may find it useful to return to the early case studies and revisit your answers to questions in the activities to gauge your progress.

Refer back to the first four chapters as you work through Part Two to remind yourself of what is known about the nature, incidence and prevalence of sexual assault; of the psychosocial context in which sexual assault is perpetrated; of supports you can offer someone who is sexually assaulted; and of care for yourself as you work through the case studies.

## Educational objective

At the end of this case study you will be able to:

- Recognise some clues which may indicate that a patient has experienced sexual assault.
- Discuss and prescribe emergency contraception.
- Discuss the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in your community.
- Discuss and prescribe STI prophylaxis.
- Describe mandatory report requirements in your jurisdiction.

## 2.3. case study 2 – adult survivors of childhood sexual assault

### Learning objectives

At the end of this case study you should be able to:

- recognise cues that might alert a doctor to ask about childhood sexual assault;
- articulate a range of triggers to memories of childhood sexual assault;
- take patient history details and interpret them in the context of a possible history of childhood sexual assault;
- discuss the prevalence of childhood sexual assault and have at hand a statement to introduce the possibility in discussion with a patient;
- articulate appropriate responses to a patient who discloses childhood sexual assault.

## 2.4. case study 3 – sexual assault and domestic/family violence

### Educational objective

At the end of this case history you should be able to:

- Discuss sexual assault in a domestic violence scenario.
- Locate the specific statutes relating to sexual assault within domestic relationships including marriage.
- Locate screening tools for domestic violence and prepare your practice for implementation of their use.
- Describe common injuries and injury patterns in aggravated sexual assault.
- List the most common genital injuries in sexual assault.

## 2.5. case study 4 – acute sexual assault

### Educational objective

At the end of this case history you should be able to:

- Record a history from a victim of sexual assault.
- Examine a victim of sexual assault in a respectful and appropriate manner.
- Document your findings for possible medico-legal purposes.
- Understand the significance of informed consent.

## 2.6. case study 5 – forensic examination

### Educational objective

At the end of this case history you should be able to:

- Gather the necessary forensic specimens from a victim of sexual assault.
- Understand the term 'chain of evidence'.
- Package the evidence and document handover to police.

## 2.7. case study 6 – drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault (DAFSA)

### Educational objective

At the end of this case history you should be able to:

- Articulate the significance of alcohol in the context of DAFSA.
- Explain barriers to successful prosecution of DAFSA.
- Discuss the types of drugs typically used in DAFSA and their likely symptomatology.
- Take appropriate details from a victim/survivor of DAFSA to ensure accurate laboratory analysis.

## 2.8. case study 7 – sexual assault of sex workers

### Educational objective

At the end of this case history you should be able to:

- Understand the employment conditions of sex workers.
- Discuss the prevalence of sexual assault in sex work.
- Be aware of the particular barriers to sex workers seeking medical or legal support or redress for sexual assault including attitudes in police, and medical and legal professions.

## 2.9. case study 8 - same sex sexual assault

### Educational objective

At the end of this case history you should be able to:

- Examine a male victim of sexual assault.
- Discuss the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in certain types of sexual assault.
- Discuss treatment regimes for common STIs.
- Consult with appropriate experts for advice on STIs.
- Identify sources of further information for women who experience sexual assault by women.

## 2.10. case study 9 – sexual assault and homicide

### Educational objective

At the end of this case history you should be able to:

- Understand situations where it is not possible for a victim to give consent to examination.
- Know the steps to gain consent for an unconscious person to undergo a forensic examination.
- Be familiar with the features of medico-legal report writing.
- Have an overview of autopsy procedures for cases involving sexual assault and homicide.

## 2.11. case study 10 – sexual abuse by medical professionals

### Educational objective

At the end of this case history you should be able to:

- Discuss issues associated with professional abuse of patients.
- Describe the role of medical boards in cases of sexual abuse.
- Identify the impact that professional abuse can have on patients.