



### **D37 Consensual Flogging is not Physical Abuse**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand that not all lesions on patients that present to your practice are indicative of physical abuse. History is important in order to determine if the injuries are due to physical abuse, accidents, or ritualistic erotic practice.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by expanding the knowledge base that not all bruises are the result of physical abuse. The practitioner needs to obtain the history of the lesions and educate the patient regarding unsafe practice in both flogging and strangulation.

The attendee will be able to review photographs of consensual flogging on the buttocks of a young girl. Her birthday present was a whipping by a group of young adults who used cat of nine tails to whip her over her clothes. She also disclosed that she practices consensual strangulation with her partner. She describes that her partner will let go when she is passing out. She imitates both of these practices before she has sex.

The history is crucial to determine the facts, especially what parts of the event were consensual. In some cases, attorneys must decide if the case has enough evidence to support a crime. It is difficult when the flogging and strangulation practice starts out consensually but has elements of force and ends in death. The key point is also patient education that consensual flogging and strangulation does not fit the credo of safe behavior. The intervention you provide may help the patient avoid morbidity or mortality.

**Consent, Physical Abuse, Ritualistic Erotic Practice**