



### D38 Extra-Genital Injuries in Sexual Assault

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After attending this presentation, attendees will recognize injuries which occur during sexual assault in other than genital areas of the body and understand the prevalence of these injuries in the absence of genital findings. Documentation on the State of California Form OCJP 923 will be illustrated, and photo documentation of injuries will be presented.

This presentation will emphasize the need for evaluation and documentation of all injuries during the forensic examination in sexual assault in addition to genital findings, and enhance the quality of forensic evaluation and medical care of the sexual assault victim.

Sexual assault is any form of nonconsensual sexual activity, ranging from fondling to penetration, and occurs across all ethnic classifications as well as age span, gender, and social class. Extra-genital injuries (EGI) are those which occur during sexual assault on other than genital areas. These include hematomas, abrasions, lacerations, erythema, and swelling. Mechanisms of injury include strangulation, stabbing, human bites, and blunt force trauma. During the course of a sexual assault injuries may occur on multiple sites and in multiple forms.

A review was done of 88 victims of sexual assault who were examined by the Palomar Pomerado Sexual Assault Team (SART) in 2001. The data was obtained from the County of San Diego SART Protocol. This study describes the rates, patterns, and characteristics of injuries across the represented ethnic groups. The injuries were documented by type, location, and mechanism of injury when available. Each case was reviewed for indication of sexual assault and all associated injuries, and then evaluated by distribution and number of injuries. The hypothesis for this study was "In data collected from an ethnically diverse urban and suburban population incidence of extragenital injury will be found to be evenly distributed across the represented ethnic groups, regardless of presence of genital injuries." Injuries were primarily identified in two groups: 1) Classified, as defined by type and location, such as "perianal skin abrasion"; and 2) unclassified, such as "swelling." In 53 of the cases the victims knew their attacker, 13 were in a relationship with the assailant, 18 were strangers, and four were "unknown or other." The total number of EGI across all groups was 239. Incidence of EGI was found to be evenly distributed in three of the four examined groups. The findings of the study indicate that EGI were present in all 88 cases and in each group, even though only 75 cases had findings consistent with sexual assault.

**Sexual Assault, Injuries, Extra-Genital**