

General Section - 2008

D61 Hymen Injury in Elderly Consensual Partners

Patricia M. Speck, DNSc*, University of Tennessee, Health and Science Center, College of Nursing, 877 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN 38163

The goals of this presentation are to (1) review the physiology of the genitalia of the post-menopausal female, (2) present a case study of a 65- year-old female following consensual intercourse, and (3) to discuss the implications for complaints of rape in elder victims.

Injury to the female vulva and hymen has historically been the capstone for validation of rape. This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating how a case where there was injury following consensual intercourse has implications for the investigation of rape.

Injury to the female vulva and hymen has historically been the capstone for validation of sexual assault. This presentation is a case study that reviews the physiology of aging and the effect on male and female genitalia. The case is a 65-year-old Caucasian female who finds "new love" after the death of her husband of 40 years. She had not had any type of intercourse for over 10 years, due to the husband's illness. The 70-year- old partner used a lubricated condom. The client reported foreplay that included digital stimulation only. The patient reported that there was some "burning" upon penetration, but the pain diminished with continued activity. The next morning, the patient complained of pain and appeared at the clinic where permission was secured to photograph and present for educational purposes.

Rape, Sexual Assault, Elder