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Eduard Lungu, Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Republic of Moldova, e-mail: eduard.lungu@usmf.md, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-6889-1960.



A CASE OF RAPE WITH VIOLENT BEATING OF THE VICTIM

Ivan Savka¹, Oleg Vanchulyak¹, Marta Garazdiuk¹, Myroslav Tymchuk², Mykola Melnyk²

¹Bukovinian State Medical University, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

²CMI “Regional Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination” of the Department of Health Protection of the Chernivtsi Regional State Administration, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

Summary: *The problem of sexual violence and violence against women is a serious social and global issue that has a significant impact on victims, families and society as a whole.*

The article deals with the case of rape in the practical activity of experts of the Chernivtsi Regional Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination. The importance of the efforts of social services and the police in preventing and protecting the rights of victims of violence, as well as increasing public awareness of this problem, is emphasized. For its effective solution, it is necessary to pay attention to the development of equal and fair structures of society, which ensure the protection of the rights and safety of all its members. Gender education and psychological support are key factors in preventing sexual violence and providing support for victims. Society must confront gender stereotypes and the culture of violence that supports sexual violence. This may include developing programs in schools and communities that promote healthy relationships and respect for others.

The governments of the countries of the world need to adopt and implement strict laws that will ensure fair punishment of the guilty, as well as develop rehabilitation programs for victims of this type of violence.

Keywords: *rape, forensic medicine, violence*

Introduction: Rape and violence against women is one of the most serious problems of modern society, which leaves deep traces both on the lives of the victims and on the general dynamics of public health. This question arouses increased interest not only because of its emotional and social significance, but also because of the complexity of its understanding and solution [1, 2].

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), rape is defined as any type of sexual act or attempted sexual act without the consent of the victim, which may include physical violence, threats or other forms of coercion. Rape is a serious violation of human rights and is a form of sexually violent behaviour that can lead to physical and psychological consequences for the victim [1-3].

Statistics on sexual violence can vary significantly by country, data source, and research methodology. However, according to the WHO, more than 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner or sexually motivated violence at least once in their lives [2, 3]. This is a problem that exists in all countries and at all levels of society, regardless of social status, ethnicity, age, and other factors [1-4].

Sexual violence can have severe consequences for victims, including trauma, mental health problems, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and other mental health problems. Physical consequences can include injuries, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy due to violence, and many other health problems [5-8].

The problem of sexual violence is the result of systemic inequality and gender stereotypes in society, which contribute to the spread of sexual violence and make it difficult to combat this phenomenon. Women and girls are more often victims of violence due to inequality in power, social status, economic dependence, cultural norms, etc. [6]. In many countries, there are gaps in the legislation regarding the protection of women from sexual violence.

A separate problem is cultural norms that can support and legitimize sexual violence or question women's right to refuse sexual relations. Women are often portrayed in the media and advertising as objects of meeting the sexual needs of men, who, in their opinion, have the right to do so regardless of the woman's consent or desire [6, 7].

Many women feel afraid and stigmatized about disclosing information about abuse, which can prevent them from seeking help. This can lead to the maintenance of a culture of silence and impunity for criminals [8].

Solving the problems of sexual violence and violence against women requires systemic changes in society, which include the strengthening of legislation, the development of psychological support for victims, and the improvement of gender education for young people. As part of the forensic examination, we have the opportunity to more deeply reveal the physical and psychological research that the dismissal causes in the victim. This approach is important not only to ensure justice in judicial processes, but also to develop effective strategies to prevent and counter violence in all its forms.

The purpose of the work: To demonstrate a case of rape that takes place in the practical activities of forensic medical experts of the Chernivtsi Regional Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination, as an example of violence against women.

Materials and methods: The work used archival material of the Communal Medical Institution "Regional Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination" of the Medical Care Department of Chernivtsi Regional State Administration, regarding the forensic medical examination of the victim citizen O., born in 2001, in the Department of Forensic Medical Examination of Victims, Accused and Others Persons.

Results: During the above-mentioned forensic examination, the following circumstances of the case were considered: at approximately 04:00, the accused, being intoxicated, near the building. 3, which is on the street A. in the city of Chernivtsi, aiming to rape citizen O., applied physical violence to the latter and tried to engage in sexual intercourse against the will of the victim, but did not carry out his criminal plan to the end for reasons beyond his control in connection with the resistance of the c. O.

From the words, citizen O.: "On October 2, 2023, around 4 o'clock on the street And in the city of Chernivtsi, an unknown man ran up, grabbed me by the hair and threw me to the ground, covered my mouth and began to pull me into the bushes, during this I tried to grab the bushes, he sat on me, I fought back, scratched his face, he put his hand in my pants and tried to rape with a finger. He then try to perform oral sex with me during which I have bit his penis. After that, he began to inflict numerous blows with his fists on my head, strangling. When he strangulating me, there was slight cloudiness in my eyes. Then he tore my pants and tried to perform vaginal intercourse, which he could not finish, then inserted his finger into the vagina. She did not lose consciousness. She did not seek medical help."

Special anamnesis: First period at age 13, 4-5 days every 25 days, regular, sometimes painful, sometimes slight, with moderate discharge. Last period two weeks ago. Previously sexual intercourse she denies. Denies tuberculosis, venereal diseases.

Complaints: pain in the places of damage, restriction of movements of the 3rd-5th fingers of the right hand, pain in the genital area, inability to breathe through the left nostril.

Objectively: correct physique, satisfactory nutrition. The mammary glands are round, elastic, well developed, the peri-nipple fields are well defined, light brown in diameter up to 2.8 cm, the nipples protrude 0.5 cm. There is no discharge when mammary glands are squeezed. When examining the genitals around and in the vagina, there are layers of dirt and dried leaves and grass. There are 5 small abrasions around the labia majora, sizes from 0.1 x 1.0 cm to 0.1 x 1.5 cm, with a red bottom located below the level of intact skin. The external genitalia are developed correctly, according to the female type. Hair on the labia majora is well expressed throughout, the latter completely cover the labia minora and cover the genital slit. The labia minora and vagina are pink throughout. The hymen is ring-shaped, fleshy, up to 0.6 cm high. At 8 o'clock of the conventional clock face, there is a rupture of the hymen to the base, the edges of the rupture are red-bluish in colour, the edges are bleeding.

Injuries. External investigation: numerous inclusions of dry leaves in clothes and hair are noted. Bluish-red hematoma in the left frontal-temporal area, 10.5x7.0 cm in size, soft tissues in this area are swollen,

painful on palpation, hot to the touch. A bruise of a pale bluish colour with indistinct contours is located on the upper and lower eyelid of the left eye, measuring 3.0x3.5 cm. Bruises of similar properties are located: in the left behind the ear area, measuring 6.5x2.5 cm; on the left upper lip, 1.5x2.5 cm in size, with swelling of soft tissues; on the forehead on the right almost at the border with the hair part of the head, dimensions 4.0x4.5 cm; on the back surface of the left hand, measuring 6.0x7.0 cm; in the middle and upper third of the outer surface of the right thigh, numerous, of different shapes, sizes from 1.0x1.5cm to 2.0x3.5cm; in the area of the left knee bend on the inner surface, oval-shaped, 1.5x2.0 cm in size; in the upper third of the left thigh along the front-inner surface, measuring 2.0x3.5 cm; on the 4th finger of the left hand on the palmar inner surface, measuring 3.0x1.5 cm; in the left iliac region, measuring 4.0x4.0 cm; on the outer surface of the right thigh in the upper third, measuring 4.0x2.5 cm; in the middle third of the right thigh on the outer surface, measuring 6.5x7.0 cm; in the lower third of the right thigh on the outer surface, measuring 4.0x3.0 cm. In the projection of the arch of the lower jaw on the left, it is crescent-shaped, 0.2x0.8 cm in size, the bottom is located below the level of intact skin. The abrasions of similar properties are located: in the area of the corner of the lower jaw on the left, measuring 0.2x1.0 cm; in the area of the chin on the left, measuring 0.1 x 2.5 cm; in the area of the right cheek, measuring 0.1x1.0 cm; on the forehead on the right, measuring 2.5x0.1 cm; on the 3rd finger of the right brush along the inner surface to the 4th finger of the 2nd phalanx, measuring 0.1x1.0 cm; on the back surface of the right wrist at the base of the 1st finger, measuring 2.5x1.0 cm; in the projection of the right carpal joint along the radial surface, measuring 0.2 x 2.0 cm; small bruises on the back surface of the left hand, on an area measuring 2.5x1.0 cm in the number of 4, against the background of the above-mentioned bruises, measuring 5.0x5.0 cm; in the upper third of the right thigh on the outer and back surface in the number of 3, linear in size, from 0.1x3.5cm to 0.1x4.5cm; on the right buttock in the amount of 3, linear in shape, sizes from 0.2 x 2.0 cm to 0.4 x 3.5 cm. A superficial wound on the 4th finger of the right palm in the projection of the 2nd phalanx of a crescent shape, measuring 0.5x0.1 cm and on the 5th finger of the right palm of the 2nd phalanx on the palm surface, measuring 0.7x0.2 cm and the 3rd phalanx of the 5th finger of the right hand on the palmar surface, measuring 0.2x0.5 cm. A wound on the inner surface of the mucous membrane of the upper lip on the left in the projection of the 4th tooth, measuring 0.3x1.3cm and on the upper lip on the right on the mucous membrane, measuring 0.2x0.8cm.

Swabs-tampons were taken from the vagina citizen O., born in 2001 for the presence of spermatozoa.

On October 3, 2023, a certificate from the trauma department of the Chernivtsi Emergency Medical Service Hospital was provided, in which the diagnosis is indicated: Brain concussion? Paraorbital hematoma on the left. Contusion of 3-5 fingers of the right hand. Subcutaneous hematomas of both lower legs and thighs. Consultation with a neurosurgeon is recommended. 02.10.2023 neurosurgeon: at the time of data review, no neurosurgical pathology was found. Diagnosis: bruises, sore face. X-ray of the skull shows no bone pathology.

During the examination on the gynaecological chair of citizen O., born in 2001, a violation of the integrity of the hymen at 8 o'clock of the conventional clock face was revealed, with bleeding haemorrhages. There are leaves, grass, and dirt around the genitals and in the vagina. Smears taken. Sanitation of the vagina with antiseptics was carried out.

Data of forensic immunological research: in smears and on tampons from the vagina of c. O., born in 2001, no sperm found.

The data of the forensic medical examination described above citizen O., born in 2001, made it possible to make the following conclusions:

1. These injuries found on the body of citizen O., born in 2001, occurred as a result of at least 55 traumatic actions of hard blunt objects, most likely during struggle and self-defence, according to the term may correspond to the specified circumstances and belong to simple bodily injuries, which led to a short-term health disorder.

2. Violation of the hymen is noted in citizen O., born in 2001, the date of this injury corresponds to that indicated in the resolution, namely on 02.10.2023, quite possibly as a result of inserting fingers into the vagina or a tense penis.

Conclusions: The problem of sexual violence against women is extremely complex and disturbing. To solve this problem, it is necessary to combine the efforts of all spheres of society, including the government, the public, medical and legal services, public organizations and other interested parties.

Gender education and psychological support are key factors in preventing sexual violence and providing support for victims. Society must confront gender stereotypes and the culture of violence that supports

sexual violence. This may include developing programs in schools and communities that promote healthy relationships and respect for others.

The governments of the countries of the world need to adopt and implement strict laws that will ensure fair punishment of the guilty, as well as develop rehabilitation programs for victims of this type of violence.

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Ivan Savka, Doctor of Medical Science, Professor, Professor of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Medical Law, Bukovynian State Medical University, Chernivtsi, Ukraine, e-mail: savka.ivan@bsmu.edu.ua, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2969-1306.



FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION AS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE INVESTIGATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES IN BULGARIA

Yanko G. Kolev^{1,2}, Plamen G. Dimitrov³

¹Department of General Medicine, Forensic medicine and deontology, Medical University of Pleven, Bulgaria

²Department of Forensic medicine, District hospital MBAL, Gabrovo, Bulgaria

³Department of Forensic Medicine, University District hospital UMBAL “Kanev”, Ruse, Bulgaria

Summary: *Forensic medical examination emerges as a critical element in addressing domestic violence cases in Bulgaria, offering an impartial mechanism to collect essential data, traces and evidence for judicial processes. This review emphasizes the necessity of detailed anamnesis to understand the incident context and relationships involved, while also addressing the emotional challenges faced by victims during examination. The trust and credibility of forensic medicine are pivotal, with suggestions for enhancing public confidence through professional conduct, strategic facility placement, and transparent operations.*

Key improvements proposed include disseminating educational materials within medical settings, establishing a centralized funding mechanism for forensic medical examinations in domestic violence scenarios, and introducing specialized training for ‘forensic nurses’ to support evidence collection and victim assistance at first response medical facilities. These measures aim to refine the forensic examination process, ensuring effective support for victims and the provision of critical evidence for legal adjudication.

The streamlined forensic medical process is vital for the effective documentation and legal resolution of domestic violence, highlighting the need for procedural enhancements, international standardization, and specialized training to bolster the role of forensic medicine in Bulgaria’s response to domestic violence.

Keywords: *domestic violence, clinical forensic medicine, medico-legal investigation*

Introduction: Domestic and gender-based violence, unfortunately, has existed since the emergence of the human species. This effectively renders the issue quite challenging to address, especially in ethnic