
ABSTRACTS



FORENSIC MEDICAL ASPECTS IN SOME ISSUES OF GENDER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

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The priority direction of any country's state policy is to create a system that would ensure equal opportunities for all to access political, economic, social, cultural achievements, as well as guarantee respect for the personality of all members of society. Ukraine's aspiration to reach the level of leading countries in the world requires the implementation of current international agreements of the world community. One of them was the ratification in 2022 of the Istanbul Convention, aimed at preventing violence against women and domestic violence and combating these phenomena. It is also important that Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention enshrines the obligation of state parties to take necessary measures to criminalize rape and other forms of sexual violence. At the same time, the official commentary to it clearly states that forms of violence covered by it do not disappear during armed conflict or occupation, and therefore the requirements of the Convention are applied during armed conflict and complement the norms of international humanitarian and criminal law. We conducted an analysis of cases of sexual violence, including rape, that occurred in the temporarily occupied territory in the Kyiv region in 2022, and identified the role of forensic medical examination during the investigation of these crimes. It was found that the existing forms of documenting physical injuries are inadequate and imperfect. Thanks to the initiative of the Target Group of the international human rights organization "Global Rights Compliance" and "Synergy for Justice" under the leadership of Ms. Ingrid Elliot, the authors of this message were involved in the development of standard operating procedures used in investigating sexual violence crimes in conflict conditions following the "Istanbul Protocol" and the "Istanbul Convention". As a result of this activity, a systematic informational form for documenting physical injuries as a result of sexual violence in conflict conditions was proposed for law enforcement officers of Ukraine. In addition, we conducted a statistical analysis of reports of domestic violence victims from 2018 to 2023 based on archival data from the Regional Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination of Zhytomyr Regional Council. It was established that the highest number of reports was made by women aged 25-44 years; in terms of the severity of physical injuries, light and mild injuries with a short-term health disorder predominated, with physical manifestations of which were abrasions, bruises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of reports remained stable and even slightly increased, and during the Russian military aggression, the number of reports decreased by almost half. In cases of domestic violence, children's neglect was committed by the fathers of the victims.

Keywords: forensic medicine, gender-based violence, domestic violence

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MEDICO-LEGAL STUDY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AT SML CONSTANTA

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Sexual violence happens in every community and affects people of all genders and ages. Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact. This includes words and actions of a sexual nature against

a person's will and without their consent. A person may use force, threats, manipulation, or coercion to commit sexual violence.

The impact of sexual violence extends beyond the individual survivor and reaches all of society.

Victims of sexual violence include people of all ages, races, genders, and religions — with and without disabilities.

The World Health Organization estimates that around a third of women in the whole world are victims of acts of violence. In the European Union, in 2020, Eurostat recorded 788 cases of femicide, reported by 17 of the member states.

This research paper will use medico-legal aspects of sexual assaults in order to draw a more complete picture of the data accumulated until now with regard to the risk factors.

We analysed 379 records of sexual assaults, available at SML Constanta during January 2020 – March 2024. Victims of sexual assaults were more frequently young people, but also the great age. In the most of cases, the abuse was the private space of victims, predominantly in rural areas. (53.56%).

Forensic investigation could bring indisputable evidence of signs of sexual intercourse, noting the recent rupture of the hymen in 8.17% of cases, the presence of sperm in 10.02% and lesions of anal mucosa 1.58%.

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A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY ON 23 MALE CHILDREN REFERRED FOR SUSPECTED ANAL SEXUAL ABUSE BETWEEN 2020-2023 IN COUNTY LEGAL MEDICINE SERVICE OF BRASOV, ROMANIA

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Introduction: Child anal sexual abuse poses important clinical and legal implications and accurate interpretation of anogenital examination findings is essential. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of male children referred for suspected anal sexual abuse between 2020-2023 to the County Legal Medicine Service of Brasov, Romania.

Material and Methods: Abnormalities of the anal region were classified into three categories: normal-appearing area, nonspecific findings (abnormalities that could have been caused by anal intercourse but also are observed in pathological conditions) and specific findings (strongly suggestive of sexual abuse).

Results: A total of 23 cases were included, who presented a history of sexual assault to the police (n=21 cases) or who came directly to our center to evaluate evidence of anal sexual intercourse (n=2 cases). The mean age of the children in the study group was 9,00 years (range 1 to 15 years).

Anal injuries were described in 3/23 cases and consisted of anal fissures or tears, along with anal dilatation, laxity, or reduced tone of the anal sphincter, inflammation (redness, hemorrhagic infiltrate). These were considered specific findings for anal sexual abuse. The ages of the victims were 8, 14, and 15 years old. Data about the perpetrator was known in only one case, a known person to the victim. None of the children showed evidence of chronic anal sexual abuse. None of them presented extra anogenital traumatic injuries.

Conclusions: This study assessed the prevalence and the pattern of anal injuries and factors associated with cases of anal sexual abuse in male children. It is important to distinguish between sexual abuse and abnormalities caused by pathological conditions.

Keywords: anal sexual abuse, anal findings, erroneous notification

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