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Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Adult/Adolescent

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Question: 1

Which of the following BEST conforms to the rules for informed consent regarding the sexual assault evaluation?

- A. Informed consent for the examination and treatment allows the SANE to report the assault to authorities.
- B. Informed consent for the examination and treatment includes the right to collect evidence.
- C. Informed consent for the examination includes the right to document injuries through photography.
- D. Informed consent must be given for each element of the assault evaluation.

Answer: D

Explanation:

A victim of sexual assault has the right to consent to or refuse each element of a sexual assault evaluation, so simply getting informed consent for the examination and collection of evidence is not sufficient. Elements include the medical examination and treatment of injuries, physical examination, collecting evidence, photo documenting injuries, reporting the crime to authorities, and providing evidence to the authorities. However, some states may mandate the reporting of all sexual assaults to the authorities.

Question: 2

testing to identify the drug?

- A. 24 hours
- B. 48 hours
- C. 72 hours
- D. 96 hours

Answer: A

Explanation:

Testing to determine which drug was used for drug-facilitated rape can be done up to 96 hours after ingestion because some drugs are detectable for extended periods after ingestion. A recent rape is one that has occurred within 72 hours, but many victims delay calling authorities or seeking medical help. Because drugs result in memory impairment and disorientation, patients may be very vague about what occurred during the sexual assault with partial memories or no memories at all.

Question: 3

Which of the following are considered crime scenes for evaluation purposes after a sexual assault?

- A. The place where the assault occurred.
- B. The place where the assault occurred and the patient.
- C. The patient.
- D. The place the assault occurred and the place of examination.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The crime scenes associated with a sexual assault include the patient him- or herself (body, injuries, clothing, and emotional response) and the place the assault occurred because critical evidence may be obtained from both. The police or forensic investigators generally obtain evidence from the place the assault occurred. Ideally, investigators should be trained in collecting evidence of sexual assault. The SANE collects evidence from the examination of the patient.

Question: 4

When conducting a physical examination, which area of the body should be avoided when using toluidine blue dye to identify lacerations?

- A. Labia majora
- B. Labia minora
- C. vagina
- D. Posterior fourchette

Answer: C

Explanation:

Toluidine blue dye is used to identify superficial lacerations that may not be noticeable otherwise, but the vagina should be avoided. The SANE should apply the dye prior to internal examination (digital, speculum) to ensure that the injuries are not caused by the examination. Dye is applied with a cotton swab to the labia majora, labia minora, perineal and perianal areas, and to the posterior fourchette, which is most likely to show signs of trauma related to recent penetration.

Question: 5

After a sexual assault, what is the maximum number of hours that emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) may be used to prevent pregnancy?

- A. 72 hours
- B. 96 hours
- C. 120 hours
- D. 24 hours

Answer: C

Explanation:

Emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) may be administered up to 120 hours after a sexual assault to prevent pregnancy, although their effectiveness decreases after 72 hours. Various drugs containing ethinyl estradiol and levonorgestrel are available and may require more than one dose. ECPs may prevent ovulation or prevent implantation of a fertilized ovum. If more than 72 hours has elapsed, then an intrauterine device (IUD) may be implanted up to 120 hours after the assault to prevent pregnancy.

Question: 6

What is the usual onset of action for the date-rape drug Rohypnol after ingestion?

- A. 5 minutes
- B. 15 minutes
- C. 30 minutes
- D. 60 minutes

Answer: C

Explanation:

The usual onset of action for Rohypnol is in 30 minutes with the effects persisting for several hours. The victim may act as someone who is drunk, slurring words, staggering, dizzy, sleepy, and nauseated. The victim may lose consciousness and have no recollection of the period during which he or she was drugged. The onset of action for GHB is about 15 minutes and persists for 3 to 4 hours. The onset of action for ketamine is very rapid, within minutes.

Question: 7

When collecting an item of clothing that is wet with semen and/or blood, which of the following is the correct procedure?

- A. Place the wet clothing in a plastic bag and place that inside a paper bag.
- B. Fold the wet area inward so it does not contaminate the paper bag.
- C. Place the wet clothing in a plastic bag.
- D. Air-dry the wet clothing in a secure area prior to placing it in a paper bag.

Answer: D

Explanation:

When collecting an item of clothing that is wet with semen, blood, secretions, or other materials, the clothing should be air dried prior to placing in the paper collection bag, using care during drying to prevent the wet area from contaminating other parts of the clothing. Placing wet clothing in a paper or plastic bag may result in putrefaction. Once the clothing is dry, paper should be placed over the stain and the clothing should be folded inward over the paper.

Question: 8

Which type of evidence is derived from a patient's medical records?

- A. Testimonial
- B. Physical/real
- C. Hearsay
- D. Demonstrative

Answer: C

Explanation:

Medical records are generally considered hearsay evidence because they often contain entries from multiple departments (admissions, ED, laboratory, unit) and individuals (physicians, nurses, technicians), and bringing all of the contributors to court is not feasible. However, the records may be admissible under the business record exemption or the official document exemption with a custodian as witness to explain the procedures for recordkeeping. It is especially important that all standard procedures for documenting and maintaining medical records be followed.

Question: 9

Which of the following symptoms may occur in the acute phase of rape trauma syndrome?

- A. Numbness
- B. Panic attacks
- C. Minimization
- D. Flight

Answer: A

Explanation:

In the acute phase of rape trauma syndrome, patients may experience fear, anger, numbness, confusion, hysteria, and anxiety. They may experience nausea and vomiting and have an obsessive need to bathe repeatedly. During the outward adjustment (long-term) phase, patients begin to reorganize and develop adaptive or maladaptive behaviors, including minimization (suggesting that everything is all right) and flight, which may involve changing appearance or address. Patients may develop panic attacks and mood swings as well as sleep disturbance, phobias, and flashbacks.

Question: 10

After completing a sexual assault examination on a patient who was raped and beaten by an intimate partner, which of the following concerns is primary?

- A. Ensuring the patient's safety.

- B. Contacting the authorities.
- C. Referring the patient to a rape crisis center.
- D. Arranging a follow-up visit.

Answer: A

Explanation:

A patient who is a victim of domestic violence has special safety concerns because she may return to the same home environment with the perpetrator, so ensuring her safety is the primary concern. Patients may be reluctant to report the abuse to the authorities, and regulations regarding mandatory reporting vary from state to state. The patient may have children in the home. She may need a number of different interventions, such as referral to a shelter, counseling, or social services.



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