Oregon State
Strangulation
Forensic Evidence Kit

Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force Meeting
February 2021

Why case studies are important...

- Highlights how easy it is for victims and medical staff to minimize the risks associated with strangulation and attribute signs and symptoms to other things
- Victims may not recall all events related to the assault, or disclose prior history of strangulation
- 50% of all strangulation victims present with NO VISIBLE INJURY
- Training efforts are important. Clearly this officer had some training in the area and understood the associated medical risks
- Involving SANE or individuals with medical-forensic training improves patient care

Intended Purpose

- Increase education and awareness
- Standardize documentation and policy/procedure
- Communication tool
- Bridges the gap between medical and legal
- Increased access to medical providers with forensic training
Kit Contents

Documentation
Forms 12 pages, very similar format to SAFE kit forms

Forms/Evidence Collection
Supplied: Deluxe, sponges, measuring tape, evidence tape

Information for Providers:
Kit collection instructions, recommendations for imaging

Information for Victims:
CVC forms, CC instructions

Considerations for Kit Collection

Strangulation Kit
- Can NOT be collected anonymously
- Only used in cases where no sexual assault has occurred
- Can be collected by any medically trained provider

SAFE Kit
- Option to have anonymous collection for storage
- Use in cases where sexual assault has occurred or if unknown
- Must be collected by specially trained provider or physician

Access to strangulation kits in your community

- For more information on how to obtain strangulation kits for your local medical facilities, please contact:
  Sarah Van Dyke
  Clackamas County Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator
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