

CLINICAL FORENSIC EVIDENCE OF VICTIM WITH SEXUAL ABUSE: A CASE REPORT

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Abstract:

Introduction: Sexual abuse refers to any act that degrades, insults, harasses, or attacks an individual's body or reproductive functions due to power imbalances and/or gender inequality. This can lead to psychological and/or physical suffering, affecting reproductive health and hindering the individual's ability to pursue education or work safely and effectively.

Purpose: This case report aims to summarize the general history, physical findings and their relationship with medicolegal aspects in cases of child sexual abuse.

Methodology: This study is case report. The subject is a 17-year-old girl victim with sexual abuse. This case report provides case details such as patient description, clinical scenario, results of physical examination and anogenital examination and its relation to medicolegal.

Result: Examination of the victim found in a pregnant condition and a tear on the hymen. Furthermore, there are no injuries to other parts of the body.

Conclusion: Result of the examination proves there was intercourse that can shed light on the case of sexual violence. The victim's statement regarding the incident is reinforced with basic evidence of alleged sexual violence, and the determination is entirely by the investigator, the doctor as the examiner only has the right to examine and provide an opinion.

1 INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is a global problem neglecting millions of children of all ages, races and socio-economic backgrounds. It can be defined as any form of physical, emotional or sexual harm inflicted upon a child by an adult or older child. Child abuse can also include neglect, which is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs such

as food, shelter and medical care. Child abuse can have long-lasting and devastating effects on a child's physical and mental health, as well as their ability to form relationships and trust others. (Ulfat amin, 2024).

According to data released by the Indonesian Commission for the Protection of Children and Women, in 2022 there were 11,538 cases; in 2023

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there were 11,712 cases and from 1st January to mid Augus there are 16.015 cases of sexual violence. In Lampung province alone, in 2024 there are 96 cases of sexual violence against women (Kemenpppa, 2024).

In Indonesia, the law on sexual abuse regulated in Government Regulation that regulated in Replacement Of Law Of The Republic Of Indonesia Number 1 Of 2016 Concerning The Second Amendment To Law Number 23 Of 2002 Concerning Child Protection Article 76D "Every person is outlawed from using violence or threats to force a child to have sexual intercourse with him or another person".

Forensic medical examination of victims suspected of experiencing sexual violence summarizes the breadth of the field of forensic medicine. Whether the victim is alive or dead, examining injuries for sexual history requires a careful and methodical approach to ensure the evidence obtained is strong (Lincoln, 2018).

The aim of forensic examination in cases of sexual violence is to document suspected physical or sexual contact to strengthen the history of the victim and perpetrator. Forensic doctors are required to be objective in carrying out examinations in accordance with their knowledge. Although physical signs are often rarely found, proper documentation of the examination is very important to assist law enforcement, this is because the injuries that are present are related to the prosecution and punishment of suspects of sexual violence (Kittulwate, 2023).

In Indonesia, forensic doctors have the authority to make *Visum et Repertum*, medical certificates, and death certificates. In addition, they also have the authority in clinical forensics regarding examination of wounds and degrees of wounds, examination of the hymen, and anogenital examination as well as in the forensic pathology section regarding the cause of a person's death. (Konsil Kedokteran Indonesia, 2019)

If viewed from a legal perspective, proving in cases of sexual violence, forensic doctors must be able to answer whether there was sexual contact, with whom the contact was made, and whether the contact was consensual. To answer these questions, forensic doctors will generally use supporting examinations in combination with physical examinations. The supporting examinations commonly used are vaginal swabs, colposcopic examinations and radiological examinations to confirm or deny a history of sexual violence (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021).

2 METHODS

This study is a type of case report. The case subject includes one 17-year-old patient with sexual abuse by the victim's boyfriend. This case report provides case details such as patient description, clinical scenario, results of physical examination and anogenital examination and its relation to medicolegal.

The forensic doctor who was on duty at the clinic performed the examination. The examination includes anamnesa with the victim and family members, physical examination, and collection of samples from various areas of the body (especially from the anogenital area for further examinations and analyses when such are needed).

3 CASE PRESENTATION

This patient is a 17-year-old girl, came with her mother, based on the authority of the police officer of the Republic Indonesia to made a request letter for medical examination and *Visum et Repertum* to Abdul Moeloek Hospital, allegedly there has been a criminal act of sexual abuse with a minor. According to her (the victim) she was sexually abused by her boyfriend (the perpetrator), they were introduced through her ex-boyfriend in early 2020. Victim stated they frequently had intercourse at least once a day since June 2021, The perpetrator started selling the victim to prostitution through an application on social media platform from July 2021 to December 2022 with 2 to 3 customers a day. The victim stated during intercourse, the perpetrator had beaten her with his bare hands and cursed at her. In December 2022, the victim ejaculated inside the victim's genital. The victim started to have symptoms such as feeling dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and menstruating irregularly, and the last menstruation period was on December 17th 2024. On January 22nd 2023, the victim tried to do a pregnancy test by herself with a test pack and the result was positive. After that she went to the midwife to confirm her pregnancy and the result was positive.

Physical Examination



Figure 1. Enlargement in size



Figure 2. White discharge found



Figure 3. There are tears at 8 and 9 o'clock of hymen



Figure 4. There are papules found at the right and left side of labia minora



Figure 5. Ultrasonography Examination Result is 10 Weeks Gestational Age

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Several screening tools are available to assess child sexual abuse (CSA), particularly in emergency departments. Gynecological evaluations should include confidential sexual abuse screenings, regardless of the setting. Addressing this issue in an objective and routine manner, as part of a comprehensive social history, ensures that no biases influence the patients being screened (Kellogg, 2005). Examination should include inspection for vaginal discharge, bleeding, and odor. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021).

The victim's breasts are enlarged because of the pregnancy in trimester one (Fig. 1). The enlargement of breast tissue during pregnancy is due to the growth of secretory tissue. Early in pregnancy, lobule type 3 develops under the influence of chorionic gonadotropin. These newly developed lobules are characterized by an increased size and number of epithelial cells in each acinus (Pillay, 2023).

The victim had a history of multiple sexual partners. Multiple sexual partners increase the high risk of sexually transmitted infection including HIV, unplanned pregnancies, and psychological and substance use disorders (Sentis, 2019). The external examination revealed there are white discharges on labia majora (Fig. 2) and asymptomatic papules found on the left and right side of labia minora (Fig. 3). The most frequent of sexual transmitted infections are syphilis and genital herpes (Talukdar, 2018). While vulvar condyloma and herpetic lesions in the anogenital area should prompt an investigation for sexual assault in a minor, they are not definitive indicators of sexual abuse (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021).

Other important findings are tears at 8 and 9 o'clock of the hymen (Fig. 4). Hymen examination is legally significant because its injury is evidence of sexual intercourse (Al-Khateeb, 2023). The forensic doctor must observe various medicolegally important indicators, including acute hymenal lacerations, hymenal transections, and hymenal ecchymosis (bruises). These signs serve as definitive evidence of blunt force trauma and penetration (Cristina, 2014). Tears in the hymen at or 3 and 9 o'clock are considered residual findings caused by trauma and/or sexual contact (Adam, 2018). So we can conclude that this is the old hymenal tears.

The ultrasonography examination was performed by a doctor specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the results are the baby is healthy with 10 weeks gestational. From the victim's history of multiple sexual partners, we couldn't determine the baby's father so we recommend performing a DNA test.

Apart from suffering physical losses, victims of sexual violence will also have an impact on psychological conditions after sexual violence, such as depression, phobias, nightmares, suspicion of other people. For victims of sexual violence who experience psychological trauma, there is a possibility that they will think about committing suicide (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021).

In this case, Forensic Science is used to help uncover the perpetrator. Forensics is a valid means of

evidence that gives the judge confidence in deciding whether the suspect or defendant is guilty or not. Forensic science can help explain the identity of the suspect, the type of crime committed and the time of the incident.

5 CONCLUSION

In examining sexual violence, a comprehensive forensic examination is required. Forensic science in proving sexual violence is to prove whether or not there is a history of sexual contact, signs of violence, estimated time. From the results of the examination of the seventeen year old girl victim, it was discovered that the victim was pregnant and her hymen was torn as a result of sexual intercourse. Apart from that, no injuries were found on other parts of the body. We recommend the victim to consult a doctor specializing in dermatology and venereology for her asymptomatic papules and white discharge. We recommend performing a DNA test so we can make sure the identity of the baby's father.

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