

Emergency Department CSI: Documenting Injury

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Upon completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify at least five types of forensic patients seen in the emergency department;
2. Describe how to body map injuries;
3. List the steps for forensically photographing injuries;
4. Explain the differences in injuries resulting from sharp and blunt force trauma; and
5. Apply correct forensic wound terminology when assessing, labeling and documenting injuries.

I. Emergency Nursing and Forensics

- A. Terminology
- B. Patient Population

II. Forensic Patient Population

- A. Victims of violence
 - a. Child abuse/Neglect
 - b. Elder abuse
 - c. Domestic violence
 - d. Sexual assault
 - e. Physical assault/Abuse
 - f. Dog bites
 - g. Gang violence
 - h. Motor vehicle collision patients
- B. Vulnerable populations
 - a. Children
 - b. Elderly
 - c. Substance abusers
 - d. Physically or mentally handicapped
 - e. Prostitutes
 - f. Homeless
- C. Physical assault/abuse injuries

III. Patient Assessment

- A. Be systematic
- B. Forensic/trauma exam
 - a. Across the room
 - b. A-I with brief neuro (AVPU)
 - c. History of incident (mechanism of injury)
 - d. Detailed head to toe assessment

IV. Nursing Documentation

- A. Descriptive narrative
 - a. Paint a picture
 - b. Quoting the patient
 - B. Body mapping
 - a. Body diagrams
 - b. Labeling
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- C. Forensic photography
 - a. Digital vs 35mm vs Polaroid
 - b. Raw/Tiff/Jpeg Images and enhanced images
 - c. Technique
 - i. Label/bookending
 - ii. Overview shot
 - iii. Midrange
 - iv. Close up
 - v. Close up with measuring device

- V. Forensic Terminology
 - a. Abrasion
 - b. Ecchymosis vs bruise
 - c. Laceration vs cut
 - d. Choking vs strangulation
 - e. Petechiae
 - f. Bite marks
 - g. Patterned injury vs Pattern of injury
 - h. Defensive Wounds
 - i. Gunshot wounds

- VI. Photos of Patient Injuries

- VII. Some Helpful Forensic Techniques
 - a. Labial traction
 - b. Foley catheter technique
 - c. Use of Toluidine dye

Resources

- Girardin, B. F. (1997). *Color atlas sexual assault*. St Louis, MO: Mosby.
- Girardino, A. D., Datner, E. M., Asher, J. B., Girardin, B. W., Faugno, D. K., & Spencer, M. J. (2003). *Sexual assault: Victimization across the life span a clinical guide*. St Louis, MO: G. W. Medical Publishing .
- Lynch, V. & Duval, J. DB. (2010). *Forensic nursing science* (2nd ed.). St Louis, MO: Mosby.
- Office on Violence Against Women. (2004). *A national protocol for sexual assault medical forensic examinations: Adults/Adolescents*. Washington, DC, Author.