

Trafficking Prevention in the Medical Field

General Information (AHN)

- Human Trafficking is a \$9.8 billion industry in the US
- Globally it's an estimated \$44 billion industry
 - \$19 billion from sex trafficking
- Traffickers weekly profits: \$5,000-\$32,000
- 30% will seek medical treatment for illnesses or injuries as a result of captivity

General Symptoms (AHN)

- Distrust
- No eye contact
- Reluctant to share personal information
- May turn down medical provider assistance and resent intervention
- Limited English

Health Problems Related to Sex Trafficking (Kyaap, AHN)

- Infectious diseases
- Non-infectious diseases: malnutrition, dental health problems, and skin diseases
- Reproductive health problems
- Substance abuse
- Mental health problems
- Violence
- Cervical ectopy
- PTSD
- Gastrointestinal problems

Medical Practitioner Notable Symptoms (Massmed, Safe Horizon, TRC, AHN)

- No family history
- No medication use
- Accompanied by a "relative" who does all the talking
- No questions asked
- Abnormal tattoos that can't be explained
 - Typical sites: back, shoulder, back of neck
- Bruising on inner thighs and lower abdomen
- Posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms
- Marks of strangulation are ONLY the result of abuse, never restraint
- Permanent scars on the wrist or ankle do not occur from restraint, but abuse
- Hotel room keys
- Numerous school absences
- False ID's
- Lying about age

- Dating much older, abusive, or controlling men
- Large amounts of cash, jewelry, and new clothes
- Disappearing for blocks of time
- Burns
- Blunt force trauma
- Firearm and knife wounds
- Fractures
- Dental and oral cavity injuries
- Brain injuries
- Neuropathies and other effects of torture
- Scarring
- Chronic back pain
- Repeated unwanted pregnancy
- Forced abortion
- Complications from repeated or poorly performed abortions
- Delayed physical and cognitive developmental milestones
- Impaired social skills
- Long-term effects of inadequate treatment of common childhood diseases
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Abdominal complaints
- Scripted, memorized, or mechanically stated history
- Subordinate, hyper-vigilant, or fearful demeanor
- Overfamiliarity with sexual terms and practices
- Presence of debris in vagina
- Problems with jaw or neck
- Inability to keep appointments or follow care instructions
- Explanations inconsistent with injuries
- Delayed medical care
- Unusual reactions to gynecological or breast exam
- Unusual reactions to disrobing in doctor's office

Ways to Offer Assistance (WHO, Safe Horizon, TRC, AHN)

- Ask escort to leave the room
- Offer Trafficking Hotline
- Inform of legal assistance available from the US State Department
 - Includes a T-visa and eventual permanent legal residence for victims who make a reasonable effort to assist in the pursuit and prosecution of a trafficker
- Offer legal assistance and witness when necessary
- Ask questions:
 - Have you ever run away from home?
 - Where are you living?

- Do you go to school?
- Do you have a boy/girlfriend? How old is this person? How did you meet?
- Are you currently in a relationship with someone who threatens or physically hurt you?
- Has your partner ever harmed or threatened to harm you or someone you love?
- Are you sexually active? How many partners in the past 6 months?
- When interviewing:
 - Use the same words as the patient—don't correct them!
 - Be open to unfamiliar narratives and stories.
 - Always speak with patient privately.
 - Use interpreter services when there's a language barrier.
 - Use a trauma-informed, non-judgmental approach.
 - Active listening
 - Offer assistance in the future
 - Provide patient with contact information for a social service agency or call 311
- DON'T:
 - Try to rescue the patient
 - Ask about immigration status
 - Contact authorities without patient's permission (unless mandated to)
 - Make promises you can't keep

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