



health

Department:
Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

FORENSIC EVIDENCE COLLECTION IN SEXUAL OFFENCES

DR SAGIE NAIDOO
CLINICAL MANAGER (MEDICAL)

FIGHTING DISEASE, FIGHTING POVERTY, GIVING HOPE

Overview of Presentation



- 1) Rationale for the Collection of Forensic Evidence
- 2) Range and types of Evidence Collection Kits and their applications



- **Locard's Principle of evidence transfer:**
- “Every contact leaves a trace” or
- “When two systems come into contact with each other there is transfer of material from one system to the other and vice versa”
- Principle of linking a suspect to a Crime Scene
- In rape there are 3 Crime Scenes:
 1. Victim's body,
 2. Suspect's body, and the
 3. Physical Crime Scene.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION (CLOTHING)



Critical part of the medico-legal examination – may help to corroborate victim’s version of events.

- Look for signs of a struggle eg: torn clothes, missing buttons, blood stains.
- Look for physical trace evidence: eg mud, grass or sand which may link victim and accused to scene of crime.

(Locard’s Principle of evidence transfer):

“Every contact leaves a trace” or

“When two systems come into contact with each other there is transfer of material from one system to the other and vice versa”.

Forensic specimens must be collected using the appropriate evidence collection kit:

1. Adult Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK)
 2. Paediatric Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (<12 years).
- 'Evidence Collection kits are procured by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) which is part of SAPS; where exhibits are analysed, interpreted and reported on.
 - Involves forensic DNA comparative analysis.

1. DNA from Body Evidence Collection Kit
2. DB (Buccal Swab) kit
3. Human Tissue Collection Kit
4. Clothing Collection Kit
5. Reference Blood Sample Collection kit
6. Reference Blood and Hair Sample Collection Kit
7. Blood Alcohol Kit



Drug Collection Kits:

- Important to collect specimens in cases of Drug Facilitated Rape
- No formal drug collection kit available presently
- Best specimen to collect for the presence of drugs is URINE
- However, a blood sample should be collected in all cases of drug facilitated rape



- **FORENSIC EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS**
- Evidence Collection kits are procured by the SAPS and provided to the DoH for the collection of specimens
- After collection the kits are sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) which is part of SAPS; where the kits are analysed, interpreted and reported on.
- Samples from KZN goes to the lab in Amanzimtoti for screening and then onward transmission to Pretoria
- The testing Involves forensic DNA comparative analysis.

1. Ejaculation did not take place
2. Use of condoms
3. Ejaculation outside of victim's body
4. Azoospermia
5. Retrograde ejaculation and
6. Delayed reporting (>72 hours) since the alleged incident
7. Incorrect sampling technique

F. SAMPLES TAKEN FOR INVESTIGATION

1. Forensic specimens:

The health care worker will decide what specimens will be collected. It is safer to take an unnecessary specimen rather than to omit collecting a vital one. Use the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK).

Pregnancy Test:

A pregnancy test is performed on all cases of pre-menopausal, potentially fertile women not menstruating at the time of the examination; as a pregnancy must be excluded prior to prescribing post-coital contraception.

Seal Number of Evidence Collection Kit:

Use bar code sticker provided on SAECK.

Use Inventory Form to list the Specimens collected

2. Specimens handed to:

It is very important to complete this part legibly with the name, rank, force number and signature of the receiving officer. The chain of evidence is thus preserved and the doctor is no longer responsible for the safeguarding of the sexual assault evidence collection kit.