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Domestic violence: The medical forensic response

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Abstract

Each year countless numbers of men, women, and children present to emergency rooms and urgent care centers seeking treatment following acts of domestic violence. Many times law enforcement is not involved until tragedy has struck. Working with emergency department staff can greatly improve victim outcomes and help law enforcement to understand why they may not see any visible injuries. Careful documentation of symptoms is key to successful outcomes. This presentation will provide detailed information about the physiology of domestic violence and the nearly invisible killer: strangulation.

The content of this presentation is based on the education and experience of the presenters who have more than sixty years of trauma experience and twenty five years of forensic clinical experience.

Biography

Linda Galvan is a Forensic Nurse Examiner/Consultant at St. David's Round Rock Medical Center. 23 years as a registered nurse with primary practice as trauma nurse and sexual assault nurse examiner/forensic nurse. She is currently a content expert/ consultant for the U. S. Air Force in the area of sexual assault.