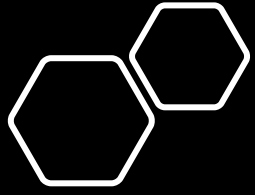




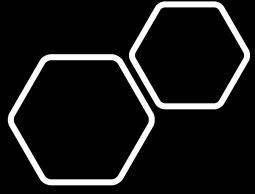
# Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Child Sexual Abuse

Dr. Asela Mendis



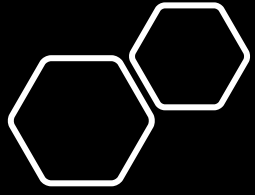
A 12-year-old girl presented with multiple painful blisters in the genital region. She gives a history of being sexually abused by her step-father on several occasions for a few months' duration.

Case 1



A 12-year-old girl with a single episode of sexual abuse by a known person who allegedly rubbed his penis on her genital area.

Case 2



A 13-year-old boy abused by two men for about 3 months duration. Subjected to anal intercourse. Child cannot remember the exact details of the incident but according to him has been subjected to sexual assault several times. Now complaint of a painful lump close to the anus with a discharge. It is associated with difficulty in defecation.

## Case 3

# Case 1 & 2

- Ruptured and unruptured vesicular lesions were seen in the genital region.
- PCR -
  - HSV-1 - Case 1
  - HSV-2 - Case 2

Victim: Secondary syphilis

Assailant 1: Early latent Syphilis.

Assailant 2: No STI

Case 3

# Medico-Legal issues

- Confidentiality
- Disclosure to other health care professionals.
- Disclosure in public interest.
- Consent to treatment.
- Criminalization of HIV/STI transmission.
- Is it indicative of abuse or not?

Accurate information about STDs in victims of sexual abuse has been hindered by a variety of factors:

- The prevalence of sexually transmitted infections may vary
- STI existing prior to sexual abuse and those that result from abuse.
- In children, however, preexisting infections may be related to prolonged colonization after perinatal acquisition (acquisition immediately before and after birth),  
Inadvertent nonsexual spread,  
Prior peer sexual activity, or  
Prior sexual abuse.
- The incubation periods for STD's range from a few days for gonorrhea to several months for HPV.



The following facts should be kept in mind:

- Sexual assault is a **violent crime**.
- STD's may be **transmitted during sexual assault**.
- Multiple episodes of abuse **increase the risk** of STD infection.
- The majority of children who are sexually abused will have **no physical complaints** related either to trauma or STD infection.
- Most sexually abused children **do not indicate** that they have genital pain or problems.

The following facts should be kept in mind:

- In children the isolation of a sexually transmitted organism may be the **first indication that abuse has occurred.**
- In most cases, the **site of infection is consistent with a child's history of assault.**
- Although the presence of a sexually transmissible agent in a child over the age of 1 month is suggestive of sexual abuse, **exceptions do exist.**

The incidence and prevalence of sexual abuse in children are difficult to estimate.

- Most sexual abuse in childhood **escapes detection.**
- Patterns of childhood sexual abuse appear to **depend on the sex and age of the victim.**
- Between 80 and 90 percent of sexually abused children are **female.**
- Between 75 and 85 percent of sexually abused children were abused by a male assailant, an adult or minor **known to the child.**

The incidence and prevalence of sexual abuse in children are difficult to estimate.

- Victims of unknown assailants are usually subjected to a **single episode** of abuse.
- Sexual abuse by family members or acquaintances usually involves **multiple episodes**.
- Children who are sexually abused by known assailants usually experience **less physical trauma, including genital trauma**.

# Discussion