The Need to Include Human Trafficking Simulations in the Medical School Curriculum

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Introduction

- Human trafficking - a human rights issue often unrecognized by the medical community.
- Simulation training can enhance medical education to a greater degree than lecture or reading alone.
- Many medical curricula reveal a gap: training students to recognize, intervene, and use resources to aid victims of human trafficking.

Our pilot test was designed to teach students how to recognize and intervene in the setting of human trafficking by replicating clinical scenarios.

**Human Trafficking Statistics**

Nearly 40 million human trafficking victims worldwide

30-87% of victims see a physician, but few are identified

**Methods**

- Participants: 5 medical students (M1/M2)
- Clinical Simulations: Three 10 min. cases:
  1. Labor Trafficking
  2. Sex Trafficking
  3. Non-Trafficking
- Debrief: 30 min
- Evaluation: Post-event MC and open-response survey

**Goal 1: Identification of Trafficking Cases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case 1: Labor Trafficking</th>
<th>Case 2: Sex Trafficking</th>
<th>Case 3: Non-Trafficking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 yo M with painful blister from working at restaurant</td>
<td>19 yo F with lower right abdominal pain</td>
<td>13 yo F with broken wrist from tripping over curb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occurred 3 days ago</td>
<td>Lives in hotels</td>
<td>Occurred 1 hr ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No medical insurance</td>
<td>Asks to pay with cash</td>
<td>Uncle babysitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother answers most questions</td>
<td>Partner answers most questions</td>
<td>Both pt and uncle answer questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 2: Separation from Caretaker**

Different techniques were used for separation:
- Collecting urine sample
- Obtaining radiology images
- Performing a physical exam

**Goal 3: Analyze and Improve Performance**

Debrief to address these topics:
- Clues
- Interventions
- New Techniques
- Legal Barriers and Aids

**Survey Results**

- I think that this event will help me in my future career: Strongly Agree 100%
- I learned something in this event that our curriculum doesn't cover: Strongly Agree 100%

**Student Comments**

- "I wish this were integrated into our curriculum so that we...would be aware of how to recognize these situations."
- "I was surprised at how strongly I reacted to the event; it was good preparation for the real thing."
- "I enjoyed the hands-on experience this event provided."
- "It was helpful to practice separating the patient from the person that came with them, especially when the accompanying person was difficult."

**Future Directions**

- This pilot test was limited by the number of students who volunteered to participate and lack of long-term follow up.
- Future studies should include more participants, a control group without this experience, and comparison of resulting knowledge.

**Conclusions**

1. Many students are not prepared to recognize or intervene in the setting of human trafficking
2. Sex and gender differences exist in the identification, knowledge, and treatment of victims of trafficking
3. The survey responses indicate that medical schools would benefit from integrating human trafficking education and simulation into the curriculum

For all student comments and references, scan this QR code:

**Acknowledgements**

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All participants and actors signed a photo and video release form.