

Strangulation Forensic Evidence Kit (SKIT)

PATIENT INFORMATION

If you have been the victim of strangulation you may have questions about the forensic exam



Why would I need to have a strangulation exam completed?

- Strangulation is very dangerous to your short and long term physical and emotional health
- You can have damage to your neck and to your brain
- The kit will help address your medical needs as well as provide documentation for potential legal action against the perpetrator

But I don't have any injuries on my neck.

- 50% of survivors of strangulation have no visible injuries
- Injuries are often internal and can damage your arteries which may result in a stroke

What is the exam like?

- The exam will help the medical personnel assess you for impacts from the strangulation
- The exam will consist of a physical exam, documentation of any injuries through diagrams and/or photographs, and include questions about the assault
- Evidence may be collected, including clothing, swabs of mouth and body, and/or photographs
- You may receive scans of your neck and/or brain to insure that there is no internal damage



What happens to the kit after the exam?

- The kit is given to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the hospital or the agency that responded to your situation
- They store the kit in the property room of the police agency
- If the case is prosecuted the District Attorney may request that DNA be completed by the Oregon State Crime Lab

What happens after the exam?

- You will receive a Discharge Information sheet
- You should receive follow up by the medical personnel, law enforcement and the advocate who worked with you
 - Law enforcement may contact you for follow up interviews and/or photographs (some injuries take time to develop)
 - Medical personnel may call to check on you
 - Advocate may contact you to offer resources and support

Who do I contact if I have questions after the exam?

- See your Discharge Information sheet
- You should also have received a card from law enforcement with contact information as well as information on how to contact the medical personnel and advocate that may have helped during the exam