

## ED QUICK QUIZ

### WHAT IS THE DIAGNOSIS?

#### BACKGROUND

A 22 year old female presents to the Emergency Department. She states to the nurse at triage she was sexually assaulted three days ago following a night out.

When you go to see her she tells you that she had been on a night out with friends and got separated from them. She got in a taxi to go home and fell asleep. When she woke up she realised the taxi driver had driven to an industrial estate and was attempting to rape her. She managed to fight him off, got out of the car and ran home. She hasn't come forward until now because she was too frightened to leave her house, she confided in a friend who convinced her to attend tonight.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Who should this patient be referred to?
2. Who can this service see?
3. What examination should be made in the Emergency Department?

## **ANSWERS & DISCUSSION**

### **1. Who should this patient be referred to?**

**The Archway Project**- this is a Sexual Assault referral Centre, it is a specialist service based at the Sandyford sexual health clinic and consists of a team experienced in the care of people who have been raped or sexually assaulted.

The service can be accessed via the police, or if the patient does not wish to make a complaint to police but still wishes to be examined and followed up via the following phone number 24/7:

**0141 211 8175**

### **2. Who can this service see?**

- Usually patients whose assault has involved penetration or attempted penetration of any orifice (with penis or foreign object).
- Males and females aged 13 and over (**Adolescents must be accompanied by Police**)
- Persons presenting up to and including 7 days after the assault
- Police, NHS and other agency referrals
- The person can self- refer if the first three criteria are met

If the person has amnesia about the incident and is not alleging sexual assault they would not routinely fulfil the criteria for Archway. If there is an allegation of drug facilitation, then the person should be advised to contact police and may be referred to Archway if further information comes to light during the investigative process.

**N.B.** If referring from ED phone Archway to arrange an appointment. Patients shouldn't just turn up to Archway or be sent directly from the ED, as they may already have a patient at that time. The patient cannot wait on the premises as a consultation takes up to three hours and the room must then be forensically cleaned.

### **3. What examination should be made in the Emergency Department?**

Ask the patient about other injuries and treat as appropriate.

If minor injuries treat and refer to Archway.

If too sick to be transferred to Archway contact Archway on the above number as they can attend ED to perform forensic examination.

**Do not make any internal examination of the patient**