

4.3 Virginity testing – role play

Objectives

Gain confidence in discussing virginity testing with clients, and how to decline to offer virginity testing

Time

20-30 minutes

Resources needed

Print outs of scenarios

Sufficient space to have group discussions

Facilitator instructions

Explain to the participants that you want them to divide into 3 groups, and within each group assign 1 health care provider, 1 patient/survivor and 1 family member.

Ask the patient and family member to read the scenarios below, and to act out the scenario.

Ask the health care provider to decline virginity testing and to explain to the patient and family member why they will not

Participant instructions

Divide into small groups of three.

In your group, choose 1 health care provider, 1 patient and 1 observer.

Activity resources

A 16 year old girl comes into your clinic with her parents. She is engaged to be married, the money between families has been exchanged. There is a rumour amongst the fiancé or grooms family that she has been having sex. Her parents demand that you do a virginity testing – the marriage may be refused if she is found to not be a virgin.

What to you do?

How do you respond to the 16 year old girl?

How do you respond to the parents?

What are the risks of doing “virginity” testing?

What are the risks of declining to do the virginity test? How can you reduce those risks for the girl, her family, yourself and your clinic?

A 15 year old girl comes in to your clinic with her aunt. The girl has been sexually abused over a period of 2 months by her teacher. The teacher threatened to kick her out of school, and to harm her 2 younger sisters. She has been too afraid to tell anyone. The most recent rape was 3 weeks ago. You speak with the girl alone, provide her first line support, listen, inquire, validate, do a history and examination, offer testing and medical care and psychosocial support. She is

not pregnant. Upon examination, there were no visible genital injuries. Her aunt asks if she is still a virgin.

What to you do?

How do you respond to the 16 year old girl?

How do you respond to the parents?

What are the risks of doing "virginity" testing?

What are the risks of declining to do the virginity test? How can you reduce those risks for the girl, her family, yourself and your clinic?