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MGH Freedom Clinic
12-14 years old
- typical age trafficking victim sold into prostitution for first time

15 x day
- number of times a trafficked minor is sold for sex

300,000/year
- underage girls being sold for sex in US
14 year old girl
No current health complaints
PMH: ADHD, anxiety, depression
Meds: none
SH: eldest of 8; mother - mental illness; father died
Patient has run away -> foster care -> youth services
Trauma Hx: multiple sexual assaults

What would you do next?
-Exam
-Testing

What is your treatment plan?
Adolescent well child care
Trauma care - physical/mental

Collaboration

Hope/resilience
“I hate school. I don’t see the point.”

What would you like to do? “I hope join the military and one day be part of the FBI.”
17 year old presented to the ED for UTI
- Visiting from out of state
- Left due to “housing problems”

- ROS: dysuria, bruises easily
- Meds: none
- SH: visiting boyfriend; working as a hostess; living with roommates - “not sure how many”;

What are your concerns?

Further hx:
- Youth services
- Suicide attempt age 14
- Left home at age 16
CASE 2

- SW formulation: “independent and self sufficient”
- What do you think about this?
- Intervention: Resources:
  - Health coverage, Crisis Hotline, start Birth Control, get PCP, come to ED if not safe
  - Returned to ED few days later with pelvic pain, vaginal bleeding
  - Urine HCG +
  - Blunt affected, guarded

In isolation, pt was asked repeatedly about domestic violence or human trafficking, but she adamantly denied both.
“She was told she could return to any ED at any time for safe management of these issues; she acknowledged understanding but again denied safety issues.”

What would you do?

- Saw OB-GYN in follow up - had more vaginal bleeding and Urine HCG was negative
One month later - ED visit for nasal fracture

“Pt asked for work note because "without one my boss makes me work [as a stripper in a club]."

Two months later - ED visit for “cervicitis”

“Complex social situation - patient endorses feeling safe at home and safe in her relationship; says she is in control of her body and her decisions”

Three months later- ED visit for injury to left foot
“kicked by ex-boyfriend”
“Pt called and spoke with police regarding situation.”

Given Teen Haven information
RED FLAGS

✓ Hyper-vigilant
✓ Stated age older than visual appearance
✓ Does not want to give up her/his phone
✓ Companion refuses to leave
✓ Tattoos or other marks or insignias
✓ Wearing clothes unsuitable to season (tank top in winter)
✓ No identification
✓ Lack of eye contact

Stop, observe, ask, respond

No single red flag is indicative of trafficking

Multiple red flags should raise your suspicion

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) 2016
Meet their immediate needs (e.g. food)
Expect trust to take time
Ask open ended questions
Use the language the youth is using ("The Life", "square")
Avoid revictimization
Be sensitive to power dynamics (e.g. use advocates)
Provide options
Do not make promises