

Aequitas Hospital  
Eva Adams, 34. y.o female  
DOB 2/17/1988  
DOS 09/30/2022

CSN 1234567  
MRN 4321

*In the late evening of September 30, 2022, after the police left her home, Eva took herself to the hospital after experiencing trouble breathing. She underwent a medical-forensic exam. Law enforcement has just received Eva's permission to get a copy of these medical records.*

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### Intimate Partner Violence

Eva Adams, 34 y.o. Female DOB 2/17/1988  
Medical Record #: 4321  
Pronouns: She/Her

### Chief Complaint

Patient presents with

- Intimate Partner Violence--ED
- Non-Fatal Strangulation--ED
  - Neck pain
  - Difficulty breathing

**ED Staff MD:** Adams, B.

**ED SANE RN:** Scarlett, Tammy

**Race:** Hispanic/Latina

### VITAL SIGNS

	0709	1001
B/P	125/87	120/79
HR	111	91
RR	22	18
SPO2	98%	99%
Temp	97.9 F	-
Pain	7/10- Neck	2/10

### Medical History: Past Medical History

Diagnosis	Date
• DEPRESSIVE DISORDER	10/25/2019
• ABDOMINAL PAIN, UNDETERMINED	6/12/2022

### Medications

- None

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Allergies

- None

Immunizations

- UTD

OB/GYN

- G2P2

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**HISTORY AND PHYSICAL**

**Last Menstrual Period:** LMP: 9/26/2022

**Pregnant:** No

**Currently Menstruating:** Yes

**Routine contraceptives used:** Yes

**Contraceptive Type:** None

**PATIENT'S GENERAL APPEARANCE:**

Patient presents with disheveled hair up in a ponytail. She has mascara noted to be smudged under both eyes. She is wearing clean, weather-appropriate clothing, but her shirt does have a tear noted in the front.

**PATIENT'S BEHAVIOR/AFFECT/ORIENTATION:**

Patient is anxious (biting her nails and fidgeting in her chair during the conversation, looking at her hands and feet throughout the conversation). Patient speaks easily but is soft-spoken. Patient alert and oriented.

**FORENSIC RECORD**

**Number of Assailants:** One

**Suspects name:** Anthony

**Suspect relationship:** Husband

**Where Offense Occurred:** Patient home.

**Case Number:** 23-123

**Date of Exam:** 09/30/2022    **Time of Exam:** 0713

**Offense Date:** 09/30/2020    **Offense Time:** 0410

**Strangulation:** Yes

**Sexual assault:** No

**Names of people present during Medical Forensic Exam:** No one else

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### **FORENSIC NURSING NOTES**

0710: Patient presented to the Emergency Department by herself. She reported an altercation with her husband earlier this morning. Introductions made and role of FNE discussed. Medical Forensic Exam discussed and pt is agreeable to this.

0715: Consents reviewed and signed. Advocacy called at this time and is on the way. Pt history obtained. Pt states she was assaulted by her husband earlier this evening when she was trying to leave him. She reports he strangled her and she is now having neck pain and difficulty breathing.

0730: Anna with the DA's victim advocacy unit here and FNE stepped out to provide privacy.

0745: FNE back into room. Pt reports she was strangled by her husband. Strangulation assessment completed. FNE stepped out briefly and made provider aware. MD to room and evaluated pt. CT to be ordered as the pt is still experiencing shortness of breath and neck pain. MD to order pain medication as well. Pt reports neck pain 7/10.

Danger assessment completed and score discussed with pt. Pt verbalized understanding of risk of lethality score 9.

0810: CT tech here, pt taken to CT on stretcher.

0830: Pt returned from CT. Zofran and Acetaminophen administered.

Physical assessment completed. Photo documentation completed along with evidence collection of neck/buccal swabs and shirt. Photodocumentation not indicated as there are no injuries noted.

1005: Provider spoke with the pt, CT negative. Pt to return with any worsening or new symptoms. Pt reports her pain is better, at a 2/10. Discharge instructions reviewed, safety plan was determined. Pt understands signs/symptoms to return for. Pt to follow-up with her PCP.

1030: Evidence handed over to local PD. (Chain of custody signed)

### **PSYCH-SOCIAL**

Pt is a 34 y.o. female who lives with her husband and two children. The children are currently with her biological grandmother after the altercation. Pt states she works at a local hair salon as a hairdresser and her husband works as a contractor. She states they

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both use alcohol socially, denies any drug use by herself. Pt reports past assaults by her husband, including previous episodes of strangulation. Pt states she has her own car and cell phone. Pt denies any SI/HI. Pt states she has good support with her mother and sister.

**PATIENT EVENT HISTORY:**

Patient reports "We, me and Anthony, got into an argument, and I told him I was done and I was going to leave with Maggie. I started packing some of my belongings and that is when he came into the room. He pulled my shirt to pull me closer to him and that is when my shirt ripped. I tried to push him away because he was yelling in my face. That is when he grabbed me by my neck and pushed me up against the wall, it was so tight, it wasn't very long but it was so tight. He said 'next time, I won't stop'. I don't know why he let go, but the next thing I know the police were there."

**OTHER PATIENT COMMENTS:**

Pt reports this has happened in the past but she did not seek medical attention or report this to law enforcement at the time.

Patient reports "I told the advocate that there are times I do not feel safe".

**PRESENT PHYSICAL FINDINGS/ASSESSMENT:**

Head/face: Within defined limits  
Mouth: Within defined limits  
Neck: Tenderness midline anteriorly  
Shoulders: Within defined limits  
Arm/hand - right: Within defined limits  
Arm/hand - left: Within defined limits  
Chest: Within defined limits- equal, unlabored breathing  
Back: Within defined limits  
Abdomen: Nausea, non-tender  
Pelvis: Within defined limits  
Buttocks: Within defined limits  
Leg/foot - right: Within defined limits  
Leg/foot - left: Within defined limits  
External genitalia: Not indicated  
Speculum exam: Not indicated  
Rectal exam: Not indicated

**Strangulation Assessment:**

Date of strangulation: 9/30/2022

Time of strangulation: 410 am

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Number of times strangled: 1

Strangulation comments: Pt reports her husband grabbed her with his right hand.

Method/manner of strangulation: One hand, Approached from the front, Jewelry on her neck.

Estimated length of strangulation: "It felt like forever but was just a few seconds and I couldn't breathe".

During strangulation did any of the following occur (loss of consciousness, loss of bowel, loss of bladder, bleeding): None

Strangulation Pressure: 6/10

Multiple strangulations: No

Since the strangulation, what symptoms have the patient noted:

Nausea, Headache

Strangulation comments: "I couldn't breath, I thought I was going to die."

Pt reports she was slurring her speech on the scene, no slurring noted during assessment.

#### **Strangulation Examination:**

Is the patient pregnant: No

Does the patient have an abnormal carotid pulse: No

Petechiae present: No

Tongue injury present: No

Oral cavity injury present: No

Subconjunctival hemorrhage present: No

Visible injury: No

Digital photos taken: No (no visible injuries)

#### **Cranial Nerves**

CN I: Olfactory WDL

CN II: Optic WDL

CN III: Oculomotor WDL

CN IV: Trochlear WDL

CN V: Trigeminal WDL

CN VI: Abducens WDL

CN VII: Facial WDL

CN VIII: Acoustic WDL

CN IX: Glossopharyngeal WDL

CN X: Vagus WDL

CN XI : Spinal Accessory WDL

CN XII : Hypoglossal WDL

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**Danger Assessment:** (Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Ph.D., R.N. Copyright, 2003)

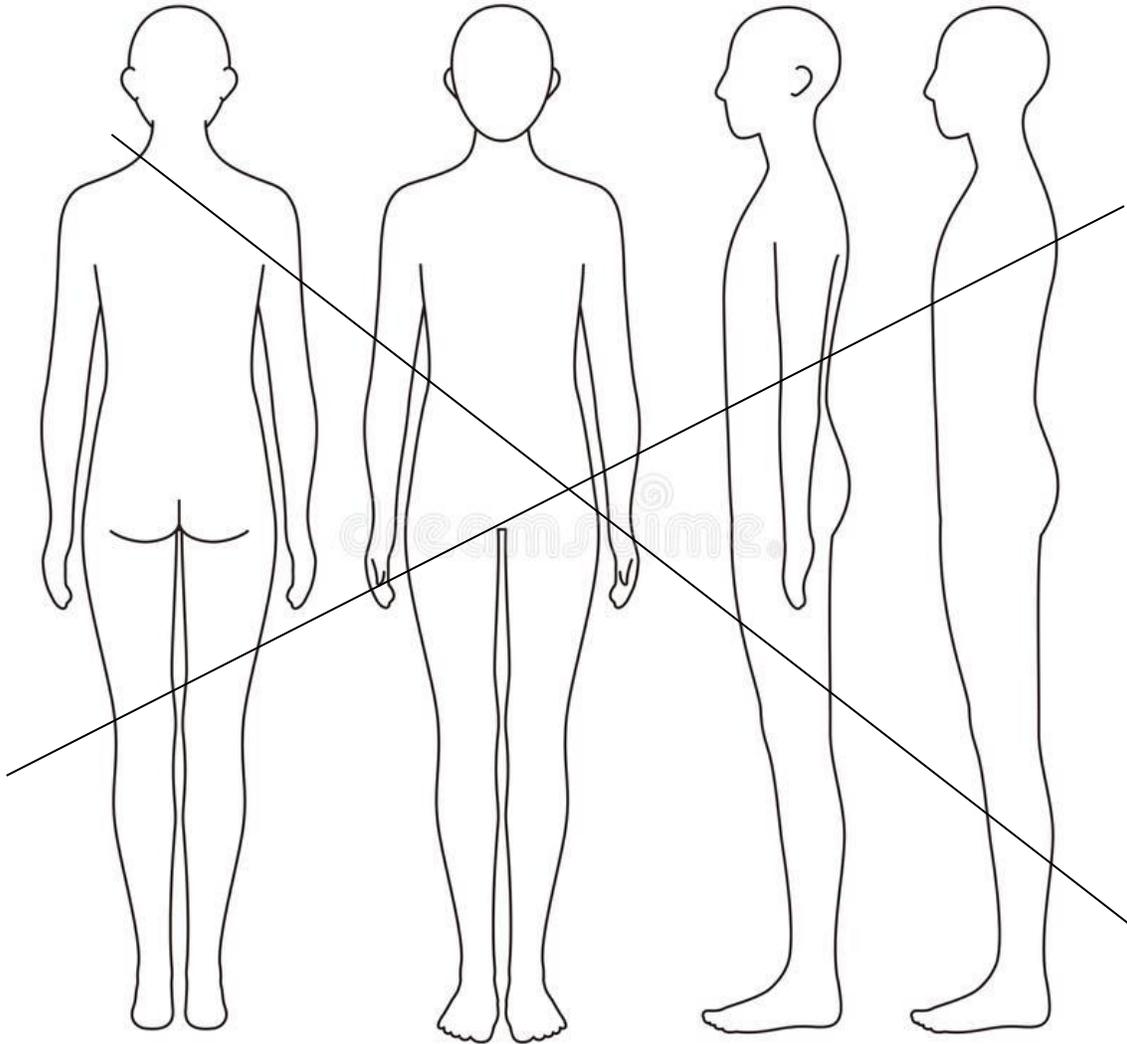
- Y 1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
- Y 2. Does he own a gun?
- N 3. Have you left him after living together during the past year?
- Y 3a. (If you have never lived with him, check here: \_\_)
- N 4. Is he unemployed?
- N 5. Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?  
(If yes, was the weapon a gun? check here: \_\_)
- N 6. Does he threaten to kill you?
- Y 7. Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
- N 8. Do you have a child that is not his?
- N 9. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
- Y 10. Does he ever try to choke/strangle you or cut off your breathing?
- Y 10a. (If yes, has he done it more than once, or did it make you pass out or black out or make you dizzy? check here: x)
- N 11. Does he use illegal drugs? By drugs, I mean "uppers" or amphetamines, "meth", speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures.
- N 12. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
- Y 13. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? For instance, does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here: \_\_)
- Y 14. Is he violently and constantly jealous of you? (For instance, does he say: "If I can't have you, no one can.")
- N 15. Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by him, check here: x)
- N 16. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- N 17. Does he threaten to harm your children?
- Y 18. Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
- N 19. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?  
Comments- Pt reports he has put an air tag in her purse to follow her when she was at lunch with her mother.
- N 20. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- 9 Total "Yes" Answers

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**Photographs Taken:** No- No body surface injuries noted at time of exam.

**Body Diagram:**



1. No Body surface injuries
2. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Evidence collection:**

Buccal:	Yes
Oral:	No
Neck:	Yes
External genital:	No
Vaginal:	No
Cervical:	No
Anal:	No
Penis/scrotum:	No
Fingernails:	No
Clothing:	Yes
Type:	Shirt- Grey

**LAB ORDERS AND RESULTS**

**UPT (Urine Pregnancy Test) Results:**

Negative

**IMAGING**

**CT Soft tissue neck with contract**

Negative

**MEDICATIONS**

Zofran ODT 4 mg- administered at 0830, 09/30/2022

Acetaminophen 650 mg- Administered at 0830, 09/30/2022

**DISCHARGE PLAN**

**Phone number of where to reach patient:** 410-626-7805

**Safe to leave a voicemail:** Yes

**Disposition:** Discharged by SANE. Time: 1014

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**Accompanied By:** Self

**Safety plan:** Pt to stay with her mother and father at this time. She states she feels safe with this plan. Pt to follow up with advocates to discuss long-term safety planning. Discharge instructions were discussed and provided to the pt.

***This case file was created for training purposes. The names and incidents are fictitious.***

*Created by AEquitas and supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-22-GK-03987-MUMU awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of OVW.*