

Acute response to rape – bridging legal and health services in the Nordic countries and Estonia

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Background: During the last three decennia, a variety of services have been established throughout the Nordic countries and Estonia, aiming to ensure that victims of rape are offered both acute medical treatment and crisis intervention. At the same time, the services aim to secure documentation of injuries and collection of forensic specimens from the victims. The Nordic countries and Estonia share many common features as to how health care in general is provided. However, in the interface between clinical forensic services and treatments in cases of rape the services need to be explored. To ensure justice and assist healing, victims deserve

to receive high quality forensic services as well as optimal medical care and psychosocial follow up.

The aim of this study was to describe how the acute response to rape is organized in the Nordic countries and Estonia.

Methods The interface between clinical and legal issues were addressed at the constituting meeting of the Nordic Society of Sexual Assault Centers (NordSAC) in August 2023. The meeting identified a huge variation as to how services are organised in the Nordic countries and Estonia. A questionnaire is under development and will be sent to key persons employed at the Sexual Assault Centers in Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

Results and discussion Answers from the questionnaire will be presented. We will suggest a workshop in which the different models in the Nordic countries and Estonia will be described and discussed by professionals both from forensic medicine disciplines and clinicians, such as gynaecologists and paediatricians.