Sexual Abuse Identified after Suicide: Case Report

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Abstract

Child abuse is a maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by his or her parent, carer, someone living in their home, or someone working with children. Abuse of a child is anything that causes injury or puts the child in danger of physical injury. Child abuse can be physical, sexual or emotional. Sexual abuse has been reported to be the largest component of suicide attempts in childhood. Between 1950 and 1993, children under the age of 15 had a 4-fold increase in suicide-related deaths among causes of death. In 1994, 6 percent of deaths between 5 and 14 years of age were found to be suicidal. Case; on a 14-year-old girl's body's external examination, where dead stiffness continued and purple-colored dead stains began to appear in unprinted areas. It was recorded that the telem was viewed as a parchmented area starting from the middle line, 10cm long and 1.5cm wide in the thickest area. On the outer side of the left knee there was a 3x2cm scar tissue. It was observed that the hymen was 2cm wide and had a notched structure and a partial tear at the level of 7 o’clock. There was no ecchymosis and hemorrhage around the anus and hymen. On the internal examination, a 2.5 centimeter fetus was detected in the uterus between 6-8 weeks of gestation. Only male DNA profiles were detected from the pregnancy material. Toxicological analyzes result in no detectable substance. It was determined that death was caused by mechanical asphyxia, the result of hanging. A 14-year-old girl who has been diagnosed with suicide mortality and pregnancy after autopsy will be examined in the light of literature in terms of child abuse and pregnancy.

Keywords: Death; Suicide; Sexual abuse; Child; Pregnancy

Introduction

Child abuse is the maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by his or her parent, carer, someone living in their home, or someone working with children. Abuse of a child is anything that causes injury or puts the child in danger of physical injury. Child abuse can be physical, sexual or emotional. The World Health Organization refers to child abuse as “all of the behaviors of an adult, society or state, which harm the general values of the child’s life, health, development, trust, responsibility and skills” [1].

It is stated that child abuse is an important part of sexual abuse among the causes [2]. Between 1950 and 1993, children under the age of 15 had a 4-fold increase in suicide-related deaths among causes of death, and in 1994, 6% of deaths between 5 and 14 years of age were suicide-related [3]. De Wilde and colleagues reported that people who had sexually abused adolescents constituted a high risk group for suicide [4]. According to a study conducted in the United States on the Youth Health Behavior, the proportion of high school students who have experienced sexual harassment has reached 20.9% in Oregon and high-risk behaviors and suicide attempts rates have been found to increase in the group of sexual exploitation, especially during adolescence [5]. In the case report, we aimed to analyze the cause of pregnancy and sexual abuse detected after the autopsy of a 14-year-old girl.

Case Report

On a 14-year-old girl's body's external examination, where dead stiffness continued and purple-colored dead stains began to appear in unprinted areas. It was recorded that the telem was viewed as a parchmented area starting from the middle line, 10cm long and 1.5cm wide in the thickest area. On the outer side of the left knee there was a 3x2cm scar tissue. It was observed that the hymen was 2cm wide and had a notched structure and a partial tear at the level of 7 o’clock. Postmortem dilatation was detected in the anal examination. Ecchymosis and hemorrhage were not observed around the anus and hymen. On the internal examination, the stomach was seen as empty, and a 2.5centimeter fetus was detected in the uterus. In the toxicological analysis of the blood taken during the autopsy, there were no foreign substances in the blood. It was determined that the fetus was between 6-8 weeks of gestation, that the pregnancy material was compatible with the male DNA profile, and that the death was caused by mechanical asphyxia the result of hanging. According to the statements taken in the forensic
in our case about the presence of a 6-8 week fetus, DNA is the most important evidence for finding the identity of the attacker.

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