

- Helplessness
- Nervousness
- Rapid mood swings
- Appearing calm and controlled (masking inner turmoil)
- Confused
- Self-blame
- Fear—of the rape and of injury

Evidence of physical force from the following:

- Roughness
- Non-brutal beating (slapping)
- Brutal beating (slugging, kicking, beating repeatedly with fists)
- Choking or gagging

Medical examination provides evidence of:

- Penetration
- Ejaculation
- Use of force

It is important to obtain a clear account of the circumstances of an alleged rape without forcing the victim to relive a painful experience. Information includes the date, time, location, and an accurate description of any type of sexual contact. The physical examination is carried out as soon as possible because physical evidence deteriorates rapidly. The victim should not bathe or shower before the examination.

Nursing Alert