Comprehensive SOP for collecting and processing forensic evidence in cases of sexual assault on women

**Importance of Proper Collection and Processing of Scientific/Forensic Evidences in Sexual Assault Cases**

* Sexual violence has devastating effects on victims
* Poor forensic evidence collection leads to low conviction rates
* Trained forensic medicine experts increase conviction rates

**Victim Care**

* Confidentiality of SAS identity is crucial
* Priority on treating life-threatening injuries before collecting evidence
* Informed consent from SAS is necessary for forensic examination

**Promptness in Examination**

* Timely examination is essential for quality forensic evidence
* Optimal time for DNA evidence collection is within 72 hours of assault
* Date and time of examination must be clearly documented

**Collection of Samples**

* SAEC kits should be available at all hospitals and police stations
* Detailed history of assault and post-assault activities must be documented
* Clothing worn during assault should be collected, preserved, and sealed

**Collection of Blood and Urine Samples**

* Blood samples for HIV, VDRL, HBsAg testing and comparison with stains
* Blood and urine samples for drug and alcohol detection
* Proper collection and storage of blood and urine samples

**Genital and Anal Evidence**

* Collection of pubic hair, swabs from vulva, vagina, and anal opening
* Vaginal smears for seminal fluid examination
* Vaginal washing collection using a sterilized syringe and catheter

**Handing over samples to FSL**

* Requisition letter to FSL detailing samples and tests needed
* Letter signed by examining doctor and police personnel
* Proper labeling, air-drying, and sealing of samples before handing over

**General**

* Air drying and proper labeling of samples is crucial
* Moistening swab sticks with distilled water for sample collection
* Chain of custody of specimens must be maintained