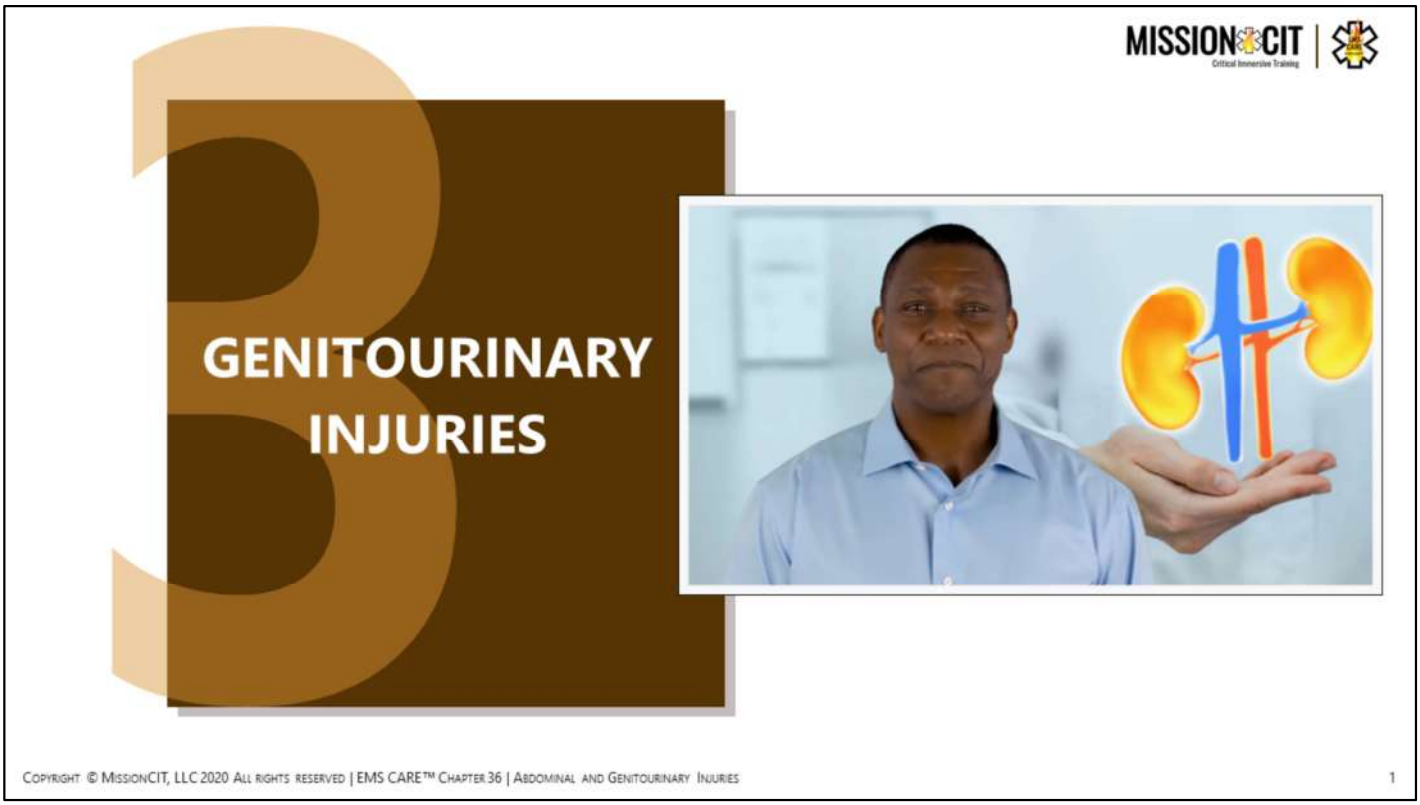


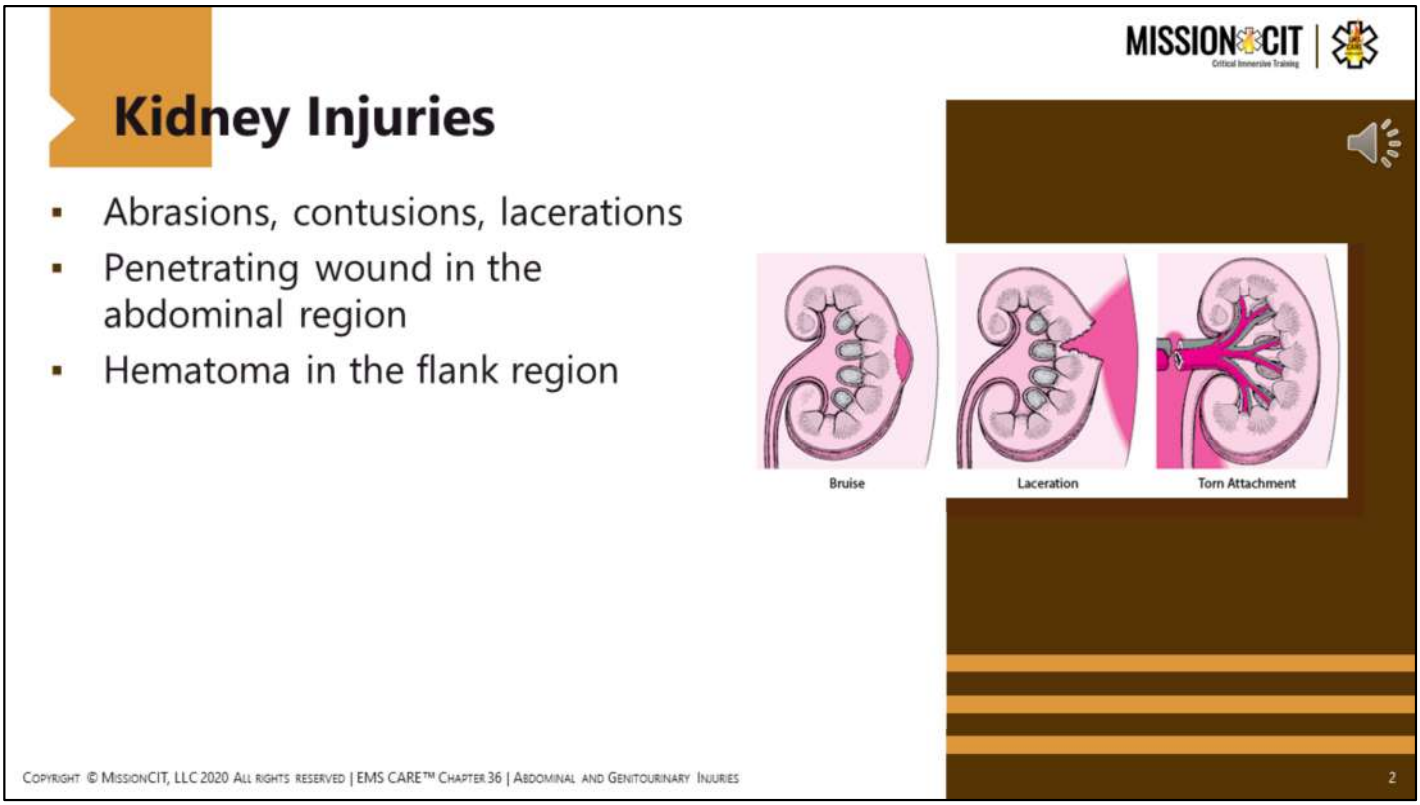
Thank you, Missah!

Welcome to this lesson where we talk about genitourinary injuries.

The genitourinary system is responsible for controlling reproductive systems and waste discharge. They are located in the abdomen and include kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra.

In males, the genitalia is outside the pelvic cavity while in females, it is located inside the pelvic cavity.

Now that you have an idea of this body system, let's jump into its possible injuries.



Kidney injuries happen due to a forceful blow or penetrating injuries, and most likely occur with other injuries. Isolated kidney injuries are possible but rare.

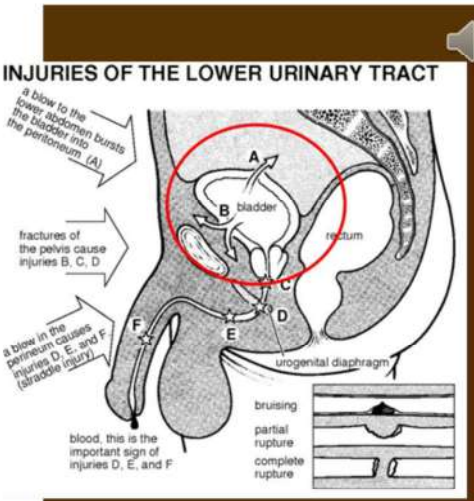
Some of the signs and symptoms that can indicate a possible kidney injury are:

- Abrasion, laceration, or contusion on the flank
- Any penetrating wound in the flank or upper abdominal region
- Fractures on either side of the rib cage, lower thoracic area, or in upper lumbar vertebrae
- A hematoma in the flank region

If you suspect kidney injury, treat the patient for shock, transport immediately, and monitor the vital signs en route.

Urinary Bladder Injuries

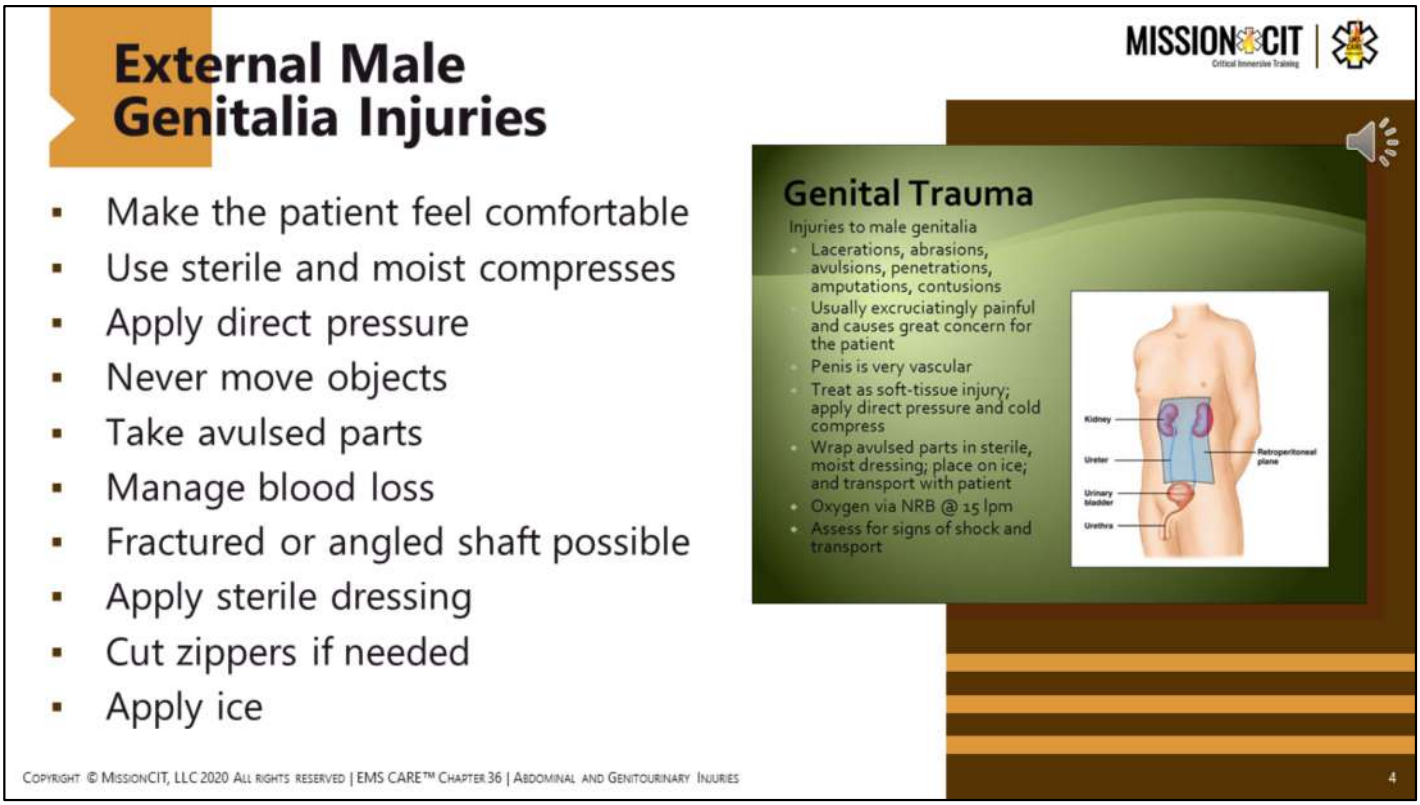
- Urine spills
- Bladder rupture
- Shear bladder from urethra in males
- In females, injury possible during 3rd trimester
- Shock or associated injuries are possible



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Urinary bladder injuries may result in urine spills into the surrounding tissues. They are often caused by a rupture of the bladder due to blunt injuries in the lower abdomen or pelvic area. In males, the sudden deceleration can shear the bladder from the urethra. In females, bladder injuries are possible during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Suspect urinal bladder injuries if you see blood at the urethral opening or notice signs of trauma to the lower abdomen, pelvis, and perineum areas. In the presence of shock or associated injuries, transport immediately and monitor the vital signs.



Injuries to the external male genitalia are soft tissue injuries that can be painful and of grave concern for the patient.

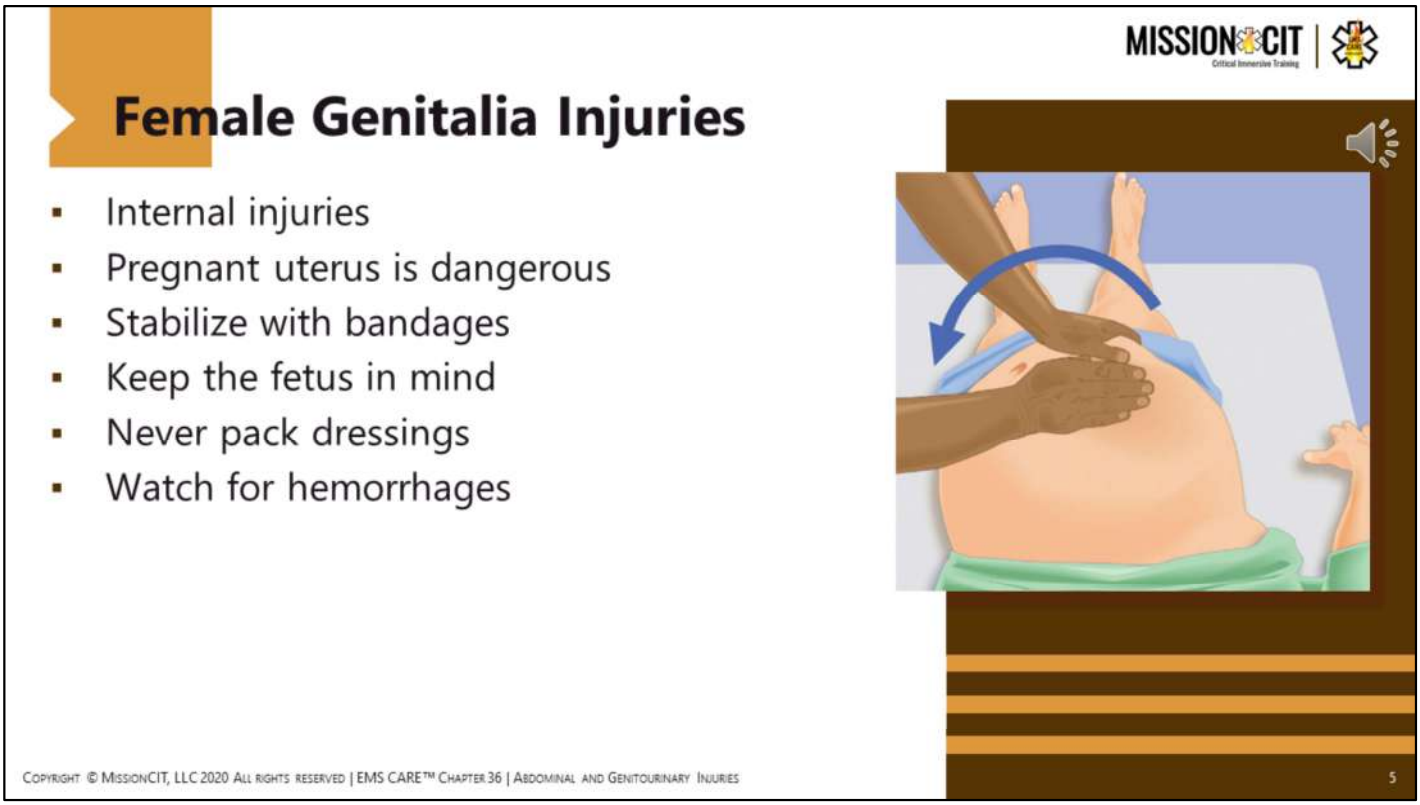
However, they are rarely life-threatening, so you must give priority to other injuries unless there is severe bleeding in the genitalia.

To handle these injuries,

- Make the patient comfortable.
- Use sterile and moist compresses to cover areas of stripped skin.
- Apply direct pressure with dry and sterile gauzes to control bleeding.
- Never move or manipulate foreign objects present in the urethra.
- Identify and take avulsed parts in a bag to the hospital along with the patient.
- If there is an amputation of the penile shaft, managing blood loss is a top priority.
- If the connective tissue surrounding the erectile tissue is damaged, the shaft can be fractured or angled. It can cause intense pain and bleed, and the patient can feel very scared.
- When you notice a laceration at the head of the penis and heavy bleeding in that area,

apply local pressure with a sterile dressing.

- Sometimes, the skin of the shaft can get caught in a zipper. In such cases, try to gentle unzip and if required, cut the zipper out of the pants with heavy scissors.
- In the case of urethral injuries caused due to straddle injuries, pelvic fractures, and penetrating wounds of the perineum, check if there is blood in the urine. If you notice foreign bodies protruding from the urethra, don't move them, as they have to be only surgically removed.
- Apply ice to the scrotal area if direct blows to the scrotum have ruptured the testicles or if there is an accumulation of blood around the testes.



Female genitalia injuries are internal injuries. But the different genitourinary parts such as the uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes are rarely affected.

The only exception is a pregnant uterus, especially if the uterus enlarges substantially and rises out of the pelvis. While handling these injuries, keep the fetus also in mind.

When you notice lacerations or avulsions, treat them with moist and sterile compresses. Use local pressure to control the bleeding and hold the dressings in place with a diaper-type bandage. Never pack dressings into the vagina.

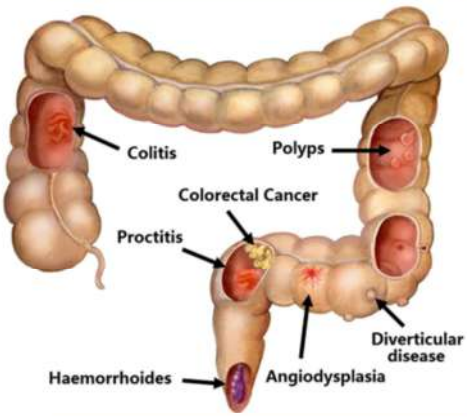
If you notice any foreign bodies, leave them as it is, and only stabilize them with bandages.

Remember, these injuries are painful, but not life-threatening. Still, they require an in-hospital evaluation.

Do these patients need emergency transportation? Most often not, but watch out for injuries, hemorrhage, and the presence of shock.

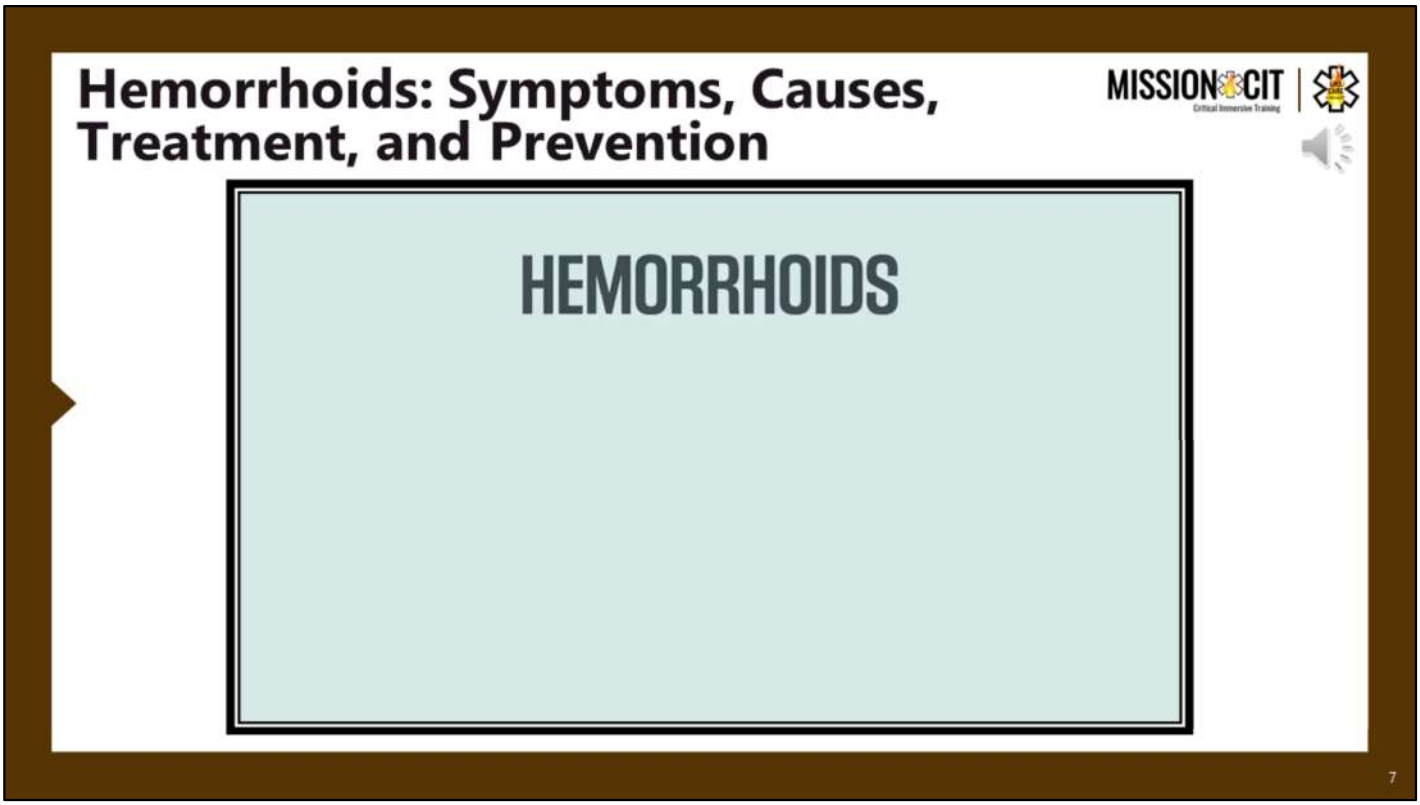
Rectal Bleeding

- Common complaint
- Can be caused by sexual assault
- Presence of foreign bodies
- Hemorrhoids

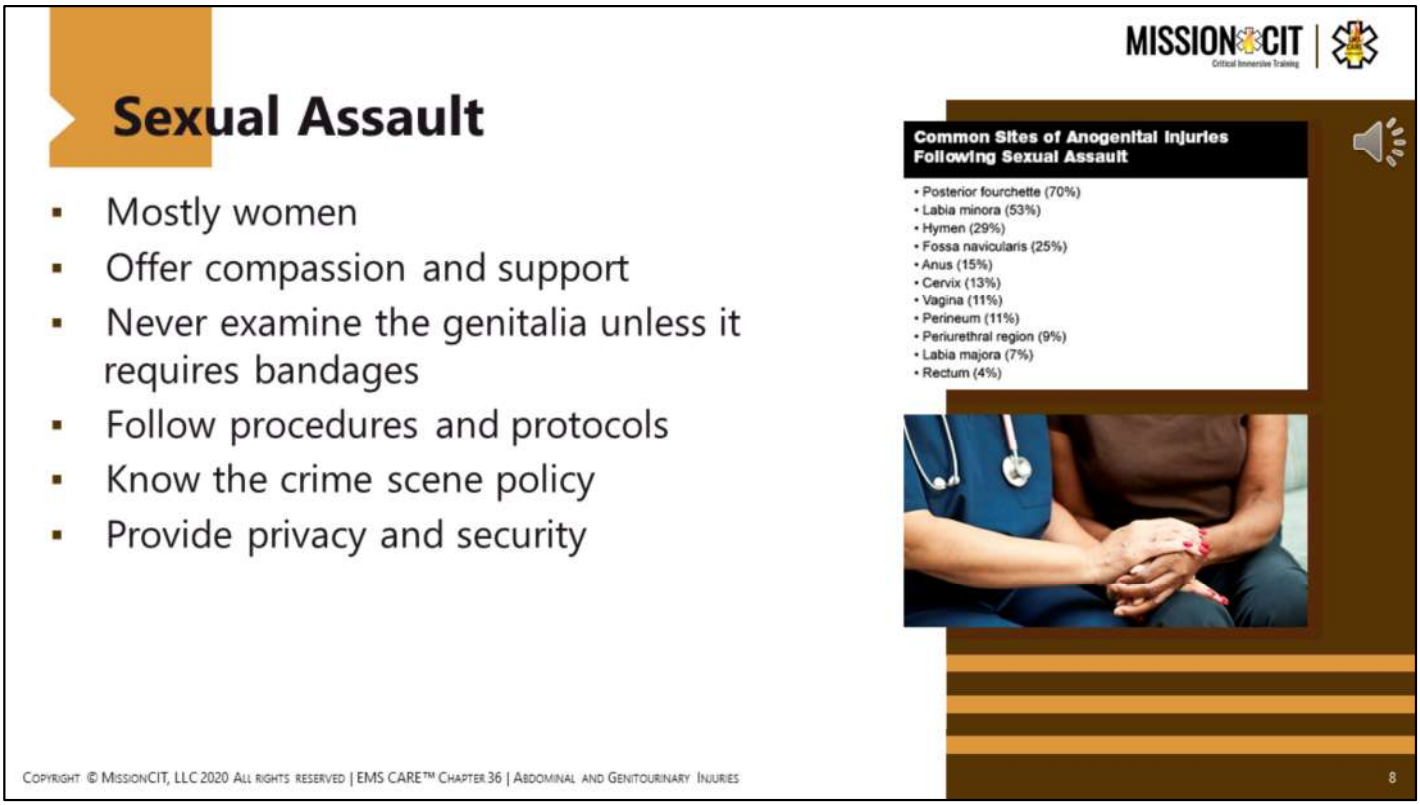


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Rectal bleeding is a common complaint and is often caused by sexual assault, the presence of foreign bodies in the rectal area, hemorrhoids, colitis, ulcer, or hemorrhoids surgery.



Want to get the quick facts about hemorrhoids? Watch this video to learn about signs, symptoms, causes, treatment, and prevention of hemorrhoids.



Sexual assault and rape are common, and victims are generally women, though it can also involve men and children.

Often, there's nothing much you can do besides offering compassion and emotional support.

The patient can suffer from multisystem injuries and need shock treatment.

As an EMT, never examine the genitalia unless there is heavy bleeding that would require dressing and bandages.

Follow appropriate procedures and protocol and shield the person from curious onlookers. Also, document the patient's history, assessment, and response to treatment.

Follow the crime scene policy and advise the patient not to wash, bathe, shower, urinate, or defecate until the examination. Handle the patient's clothes as little as possible.

Treat wounds and provide privacy, security, and emotional support to the patient.

This brings us to the end of this lesson, and in the next one, Missah will take you through the chapter review.