Fractured Families - Recognizing Medical Forensic Events in Clinical OB GYN Practice

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Educational Objectives:

At the end of this presentation, the learner will:

1. Define the different types of trauma
   a. Definition: “experiences that produce enduring emotional pain and distress” (Bowen & Murshid, 2015); “Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being” (SAMHSA, 2015)
   b. Adverse Childhood Experiences and the impact on adult health
      i. ACE Studies (CDC, 1998)
      ii. WHO ACE-IQ (Found at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/activities/adverse_childhood_experiences/en/)
   c. “Illness and trauma narratives occur within simultaneous life event narratives.” (Hall, 2011)

2. Understand and recognize symptoms from the impact of living with past and present trauma on health (McEwen & Stellar, 1993; Kristensen & Lau ,2011; Premji, 2014; Shonkoff, Garner, Siegel, Dobbins, Earls, McGuinn, …, Wood, 2012; Smith, Markovic, Danielson, Matthews, Youk, Talbott, & … Hughes, 2010).
   a. Allostatic loads (McEwen & Stellar, 1993)
   b. HPA Axis – “…major neuronal and endocrine systems … contribute to maintenance of homeostasis in the presence of stress. Clearly deciphering the role of each of these systems and their regulatory mechanisms may provide new therapeutic targets for treatment and prophylaxis of stress-related disorders including anxiety, feeding, addiction, and energy metabolism” (Smith & Vale, 2006)

3. Consider trauma history with disease associations (McCallum, 2009)

If you don’t have a basic understanding of health outcomes from trauma in your toolbox of differential diagnoses, you will never address the possibility for recovery; in fact, you may put them at greater risk when they become “never-served” by the traditional health care system (Speck, 2007)
References for extended learning:


