Reena Isaac - July 20, 2015 Direct Examination by Mr. Batarse

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Thank you, ma'am.
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                     THE WITNESS:
                     THE COURT: You're released as a
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     witness.
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                     (Witness released)
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                     MR. BATARSE: Your Honor, I was going
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     to make sure and check to see if we have the doctor
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     here, Judge.
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                     THE COURT: Okay.
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                     (Brief pause)
                     THE BAILIFF: Your Honor, this witness
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11
     has not been sworn.
                     THE COURT: Good afternoon.
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                     THE WITNESS: Hi.
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                     THE COURT: Would you mind facing the
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     jury, and raise your right hand.
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                     (Witness Duly Sworn)
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                     THE COURT: Thank you.
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                     MR. BATARSE: May I proceed, Your
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     Honor?
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                     THE COURT: Yes, sir.
21
                     (Witness Duly Sworn)
22
                          REENA ISAAC,
     having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
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                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
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         Q.
                (BY MR. BATARSE) Ms. Isaac, please
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introduce yourself to the jury.

- 2 A. My name is Reena Isaac; R-E-E-N-A,
 3 I-S-A-A-C.
 - Q. And, Doctor, what do you do for a living?
 - A. I am a pediatrician, specifically what is called a child abuse pediatrician. So, after pediatric residency, I did a formalized training in diagnosing and treating and managing cases of suspected child abuse.
 - Q. Explain to the jury what type of training qualifications you have to go through in order to become this type of doctor?
 - A. So, again, after medical school I completed a pediatric residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Jacobi Medical Center in New York City.

 So, I am a pediatrician.

After that I did a subspecialty training or fellowship in -- at the time what was called forensic pediatrics or child abuse pediatrics at Brown Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island.

After that, in 2005, I was recruited by Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital to help develop and foster their child protection medical program at the hospital.

In addition, I am also a staff

physician at the Children's Assessment Center's 1 medical clinic. 2 Okay. The Children's Assessment Center 3 clinic, is short for that the CAC? 4 5 \boldsymbol{A} . Yes. 6 Q. All right. Tell us a little bit about what 7 the CAC is. 8 A. So, the CAC is a beautiful building in the 9 middle of Rice Village. It houses many different agencies such as a medical clinic; of course, 10 11 forensic interview; psychological services; and law enforcement -- various law enforcement agencies; and 12 13 CPS, all for the better communication and 14 coordination of cases of suspected child sexual 15 abuse. 16 0. Okay. So, how long, I guess, have you been doing this then? How long have you been --17 Here in Houston, since 2005. 18 A . 19 2005. Okay. Do you see a lot of these Q. 20 cases? Few? Many? I mean, how many have you seen? 21 A. Many. 22 Q. Many? Okay.

And you said, you know, you meet with

patients. Kind of explain to the jury, I mean, what

it is you do, like what your job actually is there.

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So, again, I am a physician in our medical A . clinic at the CAC. And it's not unlike any other consultation service, medical service, where we do evaluations of cases. And in this particular line it's suspected child sexual abuse. So, what that means is I begin with a detailed medical history, understanding the medical background and information of the patient. I also talk with the patient to find out what is the reason that the patient is there for an evaluation. So, again, that's a medical history. Second would be the physical examination of the patient, which is essentially a full head-to-toe exam, looking at the patient's eyes, ears, tummy, and everything. And it culminates to the very end, which is called the anogenital examination, which is a direct inspection and evaluation of the patient's anogenital area. After that, depending on what I understand is both the history and the physical examination results, the next part is possibly also testing or checking for other laboratory

investigations, which might include looking for

possible infections or pregnancies or any other risks

that might underlie a suspected case of sexual abuse

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in a child.

- Q. Okay. So, within the CAC there is multiple disciplines, multiple people working on suspected child abuse cases, correct?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. So, then what is the goal of having all those places under one roof?
- A. For better communication and coordination of cases. In the past, decades ago, children were oftentimes interviewed multiple different times. A lot of cases may have fallen through the cracks, again, because of very fractured and fragmented investigations from the different various agencies. And a lot of times, especially from the medical standpoint, a lot of medical examinations were not conducted because of the -- for those reasons.
- Q. Let's talk about, you know, medical examinations of these children. What is the procedure that you go through to do this?
- A. As I stated before, it's just like any other consultation or medical evaluation. It begins with a history. Then follows the physical examination of the child, which includes an anogenital examination of the child. And depending on what I understand is both history and examination, likely or possibly laboratory evaluations.

- Q. One of the questions that comes up, I'd like for you to address is: Is there any way to medically determine if someone definitively has had sex or has not had sex?
 - A. Medically speaking, no.

- Q. So, what I mean -- so, I mean, there is a lot of things, you know, about the hymen and things of that nature. Can you explain that to the jury?
- A. Yes. What we have realized from the medical standpoint over decades of studies looking at children of various ages and even a lot of our adolescent patients -- again, this is across the nation, through various studies looking at overall thousands of children.

What we have found is that with the studies we found that over 90 percent of cases will be completely normal examinations. And, again, there are many reasons for this. But, again, bringing up the hymen, there is really no such thing as what's called a virginity test.

- Q. And when you are dealing with patients even or, you know, patients -- family of patients, are there certain myths that you have to debunk when you're going through this process?
 - A. Yes. Number one, people think that a

- doctor can tell whether someone has had sex; and 1 that's essentially not true. What are some of the 2 3 other things, that is, I think, the most important 4 one. 5 Okay. I also want to talk to you about 6 this case. Did you perform an examination in this 7 case on Jasmine Chacon? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Okay. And do you know when that occurred? 10 A. My recollection is May 13th. Am I right? 11 2013? 12 Q. Yes. Okay. So, I kind of want to ask you, 13 when you're performing this examination, is this a comfortable setting, uncomfortable thing for the 14 15 I mean, how is it -patient? 16 Well, each patient might react differently; but for the most part -- and, again, I don't 17 18 specifically remember this patient in particular, 19 only what is documented within my records. But for 20 the most part they are pretty cooperative and compliant with the evaluations. 21 22 Okay. And in this case -- what were your determinations in this case? 23
 - Q. Were the observations that you made -- I

As far as? Can you be more specific?

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A.

- mean, were the observations of the anogenital region 1 within normal limits? 2 Yes. It was a normal physical examination. 3 A. Okay. And then what does that indicate to 4 Q. you? 5 6 A. Essentially a normal exam. I couldn't say 7 based simply just on the examination whether this was a child who had suffered sexual abuse or not. 8 9 Okay. And did you learn during the patient Q. 10 history portion of the exam that the abuse had 11 occurred some time before? 12 A. Yes.
 - Q. And how much longer before?

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- A. I had -- I had seen her in May. She reported that it happened around the Thanksgiving weekend that past year. So, it would have been about six months prior.
- Q. Okay. And so, given six months of time, what type of -- I mean, what types of things would you expect to see, if anything?
- A. Possibly I could have seen missing hymenal tissue. Very rarely do -- would we see a scar. But again, those are very, very rare situations.
- Q. So, were your findings that you made consistent with a disclosure that the child had made?

- A. Yes. Again, the majority of our cases of child sexual abuse cases will be completely normal.

 And as I said, over 90 percent of those cases will be completely normal. So, it's not new that I have had a child who reports an episode or episodes of sexual abuse, and then certainly six months later to have a completely normal exam.
- Q. Okay. I also wanted to ask you -- let's say that an individual had sexual intercourse with somebody who had a sexually transmitted disease in the past. Does -- I mean, does every time someone has sexual intercourse with somebody who's had a disease mean that they are going to contract it, as well?
- A. That the patient -- that the next person will, no.
- Q. Okay. Why is that?

A. Again, it's not 100 percent. Depends on how much of the bacterial or infectious load is within the secretion at the time of the exchange; the type of exchange; if there is a barrier, such as condoms, maybe even lubricants. Things can act as a barrier. So, that transmission from one to the other may not occur. It depends on when that person was diagnosed, if they -- that person was treated, the

time line from that end to the actual time of contact. So, there is many variables that are in play.

- Q. How can the use of -- you mentioned lubricants. How can the use of condoms and/or lubricants affect the appearance of injuries or the type of injuries that you might see?
- A. The condoms not so much, but lubricant is essentially used to -- to reduce the friction and resistance. So, that's certainly less likely to produce an injury if a lubricant is used. Condoms may also be lubricated, in a sense. Again, that might also reduce the friction and resistance and the potential for injury.
- Q. And just to be clear, I mean, when we're talking about this, I mean, does that even apply to a 10-year-old girl or 11-year-old girl who has been -had sex with a man, a full-grown man?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Is it always the case that a young child who has sex with a full-grown man is going to have injuries that you're going to be able to see?
 - A. I'm sorry. Your question again?
- 24 Q. I mean, I guess the question that I'm
 25 asking is: Is it your expectation in these types of

cases to find, you know, the smoking gun or marks or 1 things of that nature? 2 No, not usually. But, again, you have to 3 take into account maybe even the time that the 4 5 examiner or physician is seeing the child. If -- if 6 the child is examined right away, within 24 hours, 7 we're more likely certainly to see maybe something, 8 such as bruising; what's called petechiae, which is a little bit of bruising; or tears. 9 10 So, again, you're more likely to see 11 it in the first several hours after the exchange or 12 the contact; but certainly -- we certainly understand 13 that healing -- proper healing takes place, 14 especially in that particular region where it can heal completely. So, six months later, you're really 15 16 not likely to see an injury. Dr. Isaac, I'm showing you what's been 17 marked as State's Exhibit No. 12. And would you tell 18 19 the jury what this is? 20 First, can you please tell us if you recognize what this is? 21 22 A . Yes, sir.

- Q. Okay. And what are we looking at there?
- 24 A. That is an electronic medical record from the CAC.

Okay. And are these records that are 1 Q. generally kept in the ordinary course of business and 2 course of work that you do at the CAC? 3 Yes. 4 A. 5 0. Okay. And were these records made at or 6 near the time that you conducted these examinations? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. All right. And are these, in fact, the records that you created for this case? 9 10 A. Yes. 11 MR. BATARSE: Your Honor, State offers State's Exhibit No. 12, to opposing counsel for any 12 objections. 13 14 MR. TABOADA: No objection, Your 15 Honor. 16 THE COURT: Admitted. MR. TABOADA: No objection. 17 THE COURT: Thank you. Admitted. 18 19 MR. BATARSE: Pass the witness, Judge. 20 THE COURT: Thank you. 2.1 MR. TABOADA: Thank you, Judge. 22 CROSS-EXAMINATION 23 Q. (BY MR. TABOADA) Ms. Reena? It's Dr. Isaac. 24 \boldsymbol{A} . 25 Q. Dr. Reena. Sorry.

No. Dr. Isaac, but that's okay. 1 A . Please tell us what is dysuria. Am I 2 Q. pronouncing it right? 3 Α. Dysuria. 4 5 0. Dysuria? 6 A. Yes. That is burning on urination. 7 Excuse me? 0. 8 A. Burning on urination. When you --9 Q. Okay. When you urinate, you feel a sensation of 10 A. 11 burning. 12 Q. And why would that be significant in an examination of the sort that you conducted on 13 Ms. Chacon? 14 15 The typical question we ask all patients 16 that come into the clinic. It can be a sign of infection. So, yes, that's one of the reasons we ask 17 18 that question. 19 Okay. And why would you look back four 0. 20 months to see if there was dysuria? 21 I wouldn't look back four months. It's --A. 22 as I said, it's a typical question we ask all 23 patients. 24 0. Okay. The medical exam indicates dysuria

over the past three to four months, no frequency.

A. Okay.

- **Q.** Okay.
- A. So, yes. So, that was a response. I don't recall exact detail of each one. She reported that she had burning on urination for the last three to four months, but not currently.
 - Q. Okay. But there is no mention of dysuria?
- A. If it's checked off, that means yes.
 Dysuria.
 - Q. But it says "no frequency"?
 - A. Right. That's a different symptom.
- Q. Okay. Also, there was mention that there was no abdominal or pelvic pain. Why would that be significant?
- A. There could be many reasons for having abdominal pain. Again, we're asking just general questions. So, it could be related to constipation. It could be if there is an infection. Sexually transmitted infections, that could be a complication that might lead -- that might suggest what's called pelvic inflammatory disease. Again, there was many -- again, it's a broad question; and abdominal pain can suggest a lot of different diagnoses.
- Q. Is it possible that an erect penis driven through the anus of a 11-year-old child can cause

- pelvic pain in the child? Would that be a trauma
 that could cause pelvic pain?

 A. It can, certainly.
 - Q. Okay. It has been seen to cause pelvic pain, correct?
 - A. It's not usually a symptom that patients report, though; but it's possible.
 - Q. But you have seen cases where children 11 years old, stating that they were sexually abused, they complained of pelvic pain, correct?
- 11 A. Not necessarily. They don't describe it as 12 that. No.
 - Q. What do they describe it as?
 - A. Pain in that particular area sometimes, meaning the anus.
 - Q. Well, they wouldn't describe it as pelvic pain; but the description they give you know to be pelvic pain?
 - A. No. That really means the lower abdomen, is really what we mean by pelvic and abdominal pain.
- 21 **Q.** Okay.

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- 22 A. So, the front end.
- Q. All right. So, you noted here that there was no reported abdominal or pelvic pain?
- 25 A. Correct.

- Q. Okay. Please tell us all what is enu -enuresis?
 - A. Enuresis?

- Q. Enuresis.
- A. It is essentially bedwetting or lack of control of the bladder.
- Q. Okay. And why would that be significant or relevant in a medical examination for sexual assault?
- A. Again, when we are asking these questions, we are asking a broad brush of questions because we don't just -- as physicians, we don't just look at just at one particular thing. We look at the global sense of the child. So, there are many different signs that may certainly be indicative of sexual abuse or suggestive of sexual abuse; but it might also be suggestive of a lot of other things. So, if we're able to address it -- sometimes we have a population that don't have proper healthcare needs that are met. So, we -- again, we ask all questions related to a child's health.

Enuresis, when it comes to bed-wetting or lack of control of the bladder, might be an indication -- might be an indication of sexual abuse. Some children do have that symptom, especially if they had not yet disclosed. But sometimes even if

- they have, that might be a -- might be a sign of sexual abuse. But it might also mean other -- other possibilities, other medical possibilities in a child or psychological possibilities.
- Q. Okay. Then why in the exam would you ask if the child ever bled?
 - A. In their private area? Is that --
- Q. Yeah, in the sexual assault exam, why would you ask that question?
- A. Again, it's reporting any sort of trauma that the child has -- has -- could be related to trauma, it could be related to anything that causes bleeding down there. Tumors, other medical lesions might produce bleeding. So, there is a whole range of possibilities that we have to think of when we ask these questions.
- Q. Okay. But there are children that do bleed when they are sexually assaulted?
 - A. Some of them do, some of them don't.
- Q. Okay. Have you had cases where the parents discovered the sexual assault as a result of finding the children's underwear with blood in it? Correct?
- 23 A. Yes, I have.

- Q. Okay. How many cases like that?
- A. I wouldn't -- couldn't tell you.

- Very many, right? 1 Q. No, not many. There are some. All I can 2 A . 3
 - Wouldn't be all of the cases. say is some. are some cases where a parent notices blood on a child's panties or bed sheets.
 - Q. Okay. Talking now about the lympha. is the lympha?
- 8 A. I'm sorry?
 - Q. The lympha, L-Y-M-P-H-A.
- P-H-A? 10 A.

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- 11 L-Y-M-P-H-A. 0.
- I don't know what that is. 12 A.
- 13 Q. Is it the lymph nodes?
- 14 A . Well, if I can understand my reading, it 15 says lympha WNL, within normal -- oh, yes.
- 16 Q. Non-tender without significant adenopathy.
 - A. I would have to see the area you're looking at. Lymph is usually just lymph nodes. And for the most part, I understand that she had normal lymph nodes without significant adenopathy.
- 21 And what does that -- what is that Q. indicative of?
 - It could be a sign of infection, if they were inflamed or if they were very palpable.
- 25 Q. Okay. And if they were not within normal

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range -- normal range, how would that show there was
 1
     a sexual assault?
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                It wouldn't. It just -- as I said, it just
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     means that there may be an infection, viral infection
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     at that time.
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                Viral infection?
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         0.
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                Yes.
         A .
 8
         Q.
                Viral infection that could be acquired
     sexually?
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         A.
                Not necessarily.
11
         0.
                But possibly?
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         A.
                Not necessarily. It could be.
                It could be?
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         Q.
                Or it could be just a cold.
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         A .
15
                Okay. There is mention of labia majora.
         Q.
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     It states no swelling, excoriation, bruising, or
     lacerations or scarring. And same as to labia
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18
     minora.
                     If there was swelling, bruising,
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     lacerations, what would that be indicative of?
                                                        Would
21
     that support a finding of sexual assault?
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         A .
                Yes, it can be.
23
                Okay. Clitoris, within normal. WNL means
         Q.
24
     what?
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Within normal limits.

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A.

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Within normal limits? 1 Q. 2 A . Yes. Okay. Clitoris WNL. It says no 3 0. clitoromegaly noted? 4 5 Α. Yes. 6 Q. Am I pronouncing that right? 7 It's close. A . Okay. Why would that be significant if it 8 Q. had been positive? 9 It could be, again, many things that could 10 11 relate to it. It could be, again, a sign of infection, an abscess, irritation, trauma, or injury. 12 But, again, in this case it's completely normal. 13 14 0. Okay. Okay. Then there is a mention of uri -- urethral meatus? 15 16 A . Yes. Okay. It says WNL. Patent without 17 Q. bleeding, prolapse, or discharge. 18 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. What does that show? So, urethral meatus -- U-R-E-T-H-R-A-L, 21 A . 22 M --23 Two words? Q. 24 A . Right. M-E-A-T-U-S. It's normal. 25 And why -- why do you look into that? Q.

- A. Again, it's a medical finding. If there is
 any -- any abnormality, such as a prolapse or
 discharge, it's something we can see and treat.

 Q. And isn't it true that if you had found
 bleeding, prolapse, or if you had found discharge,
 you would be telling the jury today that that is an
 indication of sexual assault?
 - A. No. The urethral meatus is essentially where urine comes out of the body. It essentially means that there is an infection from the urinary tract.
 - Q. And is it possible that sexual assault can cause that?
 - A. You might have bruising if it affected that area, but that's not typically an area that we see in sexual abuse.
 - Q. Okay. Okay. There is mention of hymen WNL, within normal limits. It says without hyperemia, vascular changes, without notches or transections. Okay.
 - \boldsymbol{A} . Yes.

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- Q. Why do you try to determine if there are notches or not in the hymen?
- A. Again, notches can be a normal variation of the hymen, essentially just looking at different

- anatomic variations. A transection essentially means a through-and-through indentation through the hymen itself. The hymen itself is a ring of tissue that sits on the outside of the vagina, which is the actual canal of the anogenital area. So, the hymen itself, as I said, is a ring of tissue that sits on the outside.
- Q. Okay. But there is notches or transections?

- A. Notches, not so much. But transections, it can be a sign of penetrating trauma.
 - Q. Okay. And what are the vascular changes that you're looking for? I mean, when you examine the hymen?
 - A. Bruising; as I said, petechiae, which can be like small bruising. Essentially, it's bruising.
 - Q. Okay. And there are cases where you find vascular changes and transections, and that to you indicates in that particular case if there has been sexual assault?
- A. Yeah. Most usually when it is within 24 hours or a very short period after the contact.

 Again, not six months later.
 - Q. Could that transection show one month after the sexual assault?

- A. It depends. It depends. But it can.
- 2 Q. In two months?

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- A. Possibly.
- Q. Possibly? How about two weeks after the sexual assault?
- A. Yes. Again, you do start to see pretty good healing starting pretty much right away; but it depends on the case.
- Q. Okay. And if there have been five instances of sexual assault, day after day, that would tend to cause more transections than one incident, right?
- A. I couldn't tell you. I have had children who have been sexually assaulted by multiple people over multiple years and have completely normal exams. We have had pregnant patients -- and we know that through studies, as well, where you would be pregnant and have a completely normal exam. So --
 - O. Uh-huh (affirmative.)
- A. Again, that is why we say a medical exam is not -- we don't have a medical virginity test for those cases.
 - Q. Tell us about the perihymenal tissue.
- 24 A. Okay. So, the perihymenal tissue is
 25 essentially the tissue around the hymen. That's all

1 that is.

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- Q. Okay. And there was a note here that there was no hyperemia vascular changes or scarring again.
 You keep looking for scarring, correct, in those exams?
 - A. Yeah. We look for any signs of trauma.
- **Q.** Okay.
 - A. In this case, no, there was none.
- Q. Okay. And this trauma can show two weeks or one month after the incident, correct?
 - A. Maybe, but most likely not.
- Q. Okay. And what is the indication of trauma that can show farthest out from the incident?
- A. Again, you're supposing that there was trauma in the first place.
- 16 **Q.** Yes.
- A. There is an injury that is easily seen.

 You know, again, maybe the reason we look is to make

 sure there isn't any signs of injury or trauma.

 Possibly you would see what's called a transection
- 21 that would last for the longest, meaning there is an

actual indentation or rip in the hymen in a certain

- 23 area. Again, that itself is also very rare. But
- 24 | we -- you know, sometimes it's there; and it can last
- 25 | long. I couldn't give you a time frame because each

child is different. The age is different. The estrogenization or hormone level in the patients are different at different ages.

So, I couldn't tell you a time line of how and when if they -- and if they heal. Some people heal completely in a couple of weeks. Some do not.

- Q. Okay. And abdominal pain or pelvic pain of the type that is caused by sexual assault, is that something that a school nurse could depict?
- A. Abdominal pain is just something that the patient feels and would report. If she goes to a nurse and says she has abdominal pain, there is only so much a nurse can do.
- Q. It's easy, then, to determine that child has pelvic pain?
- A. Well, a nurse wouldn't be doing a pelvic exam on a patient. The child would tell her that she has abdominal pain -- or tummy pain really is how she would probably describe it.
 - Q. Okay.

- A. But, again, that could mean -- abdominal pain is a nonspecific complaint. It could mean anything.
 - Q. Okay. There was also an anal examination

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conducted, correct?
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         A .
                Yes.
                And everything in it was shown to be within
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          0.
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     normal limits?
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         Α.
                Yes.
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          Q.
                Okay. And the anus is also subject to
 7
     lacerations, correct?
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         A.
                It can be, yes.
                Okay. And have you had cases -- have you
 9
          Q.
     examined children with sexual assault through the
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11
     anus?
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         A.
                Yes.
                Okay. And have you had cases where you
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          Q.
     have found bruises, lesions, lacerations?
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         A.
                Yes.
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          Q.
                Okay. But in this case there was none?
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          A.
                No.
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          Q.
                Okay. There was also a laboratory exam
     conducted, correct?
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          A.
                Yes.
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                And you reviewed those?
          Q.
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          A .
                Yes.
23
          Q.
                And it was a pretty extensive exam,
24
     correct?
                The laboratory exam?
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         A.
                Yes.
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1	Q. And everything came back negative as far as
2	diseases, correct?
3	A. Of a sexual nature, yes.
4	Q. Yes.
5	MR. TABOADA: I have no further
6	questions, Your Honor.
7	THE COURT: Thank you.
8	Any redirect?
9	MR. BATARSE: No, Your Honor.
10	THE COURT: Thank you. May Dr. Isaac
11	be excused?
12	MR. BATARSE: Yes, Your Honor.
13	MR. TABOADA: Yes, Your Honor.
14	THE COURT: Thank you so much, Doctor.
15	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
16	(Witness released)
17	THE COURT: Thank you. We will take
18	the afternoon recess. If you want to walk around the
19	courthouse, if you would get back in the jury room at
20	4:00.
21	All rise, please, for the jury.
22	(Jury released)
23	(Recess taken)
24	THE COURT: Mr. Taboada, on your
25	Motion to Suppress, do you wish to argue?