

Domestic Violence Injury Documentation

Suggested Protocol for Photographing Suspected or Known DV Victim Injuries

At-a-Glance:

You'll need a minimum of three clear photos of each patient:

- Overall view (preferably full-body)
- Intermediate views, from 2 to 4 feet away, showing locations of all visible injuries on the patient's body. Include the patient's face in at least one intermediate view.
- Close-up views (from about 10-inches away) showing details of each injury.

Take enough overall and intermediate views to show all current injuries. Also include healing injuries and scars indicating a possible history of abuse.

Overall View(s)

Technique:

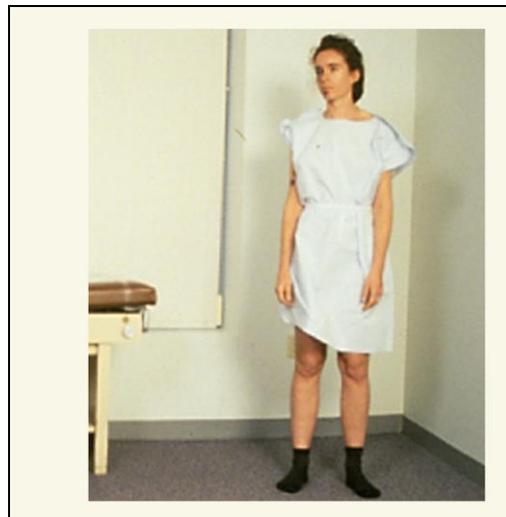
Camera required: Polaroid Spectra (or reliable 35mm, digital, etc.)

Guidelines: Photo should include patient's entire body, head-to-foot, minimum background "clutter". Choose a plain, light colored background with no wall hangings or distracting color or texture. Position patient 1 to 2 feet from background.

Extra tips:

- Positioning the patient in a plain corner, about 1-2 feet from each side wall, will eliminate shadows behind the patient.
- Turning the camera 90° for "vertical" format will provide a larger, more detailed record. Position the on-camera flash at top.

Example:



Intermediate View(s)

Technique:

Camera required: Polaroid Spectra or Macro 5 SLR (or reliable 35mm, digital, etc., equipped for photos within 2-feet).

Guidelines: Distance 2-3 feet. Series of photos must show all visible injuries and their location on patient's body. Include patient's face in at least one intermediate photo for positive ID. Include any healing wounds or scars indicating a pattern of abuse.

Extra tip:

Be sure all intermediate views overlap each other enough to establish that they are all the same patient – especially the one(s) that include the patient's face.

Examples:



Close-up View(s)

Technique:

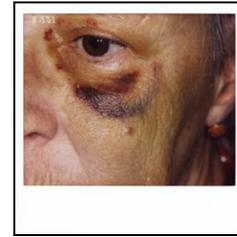
Camera required: Polaroid Macro 5 SLR or Spectra with close-up accessory; or reliable 35mm, digital, etc. *equipped for photos within 10-12 inches.*

Guidelines: Distance 10-12 inches. Take a close-up photo of each injury, showing the same detail that could be observed closely with the unaided eye.

Extra tip:

- Include close-up photos of *all* current injuries!
- Also include close-ups of any healing wounds or scars that might document a pattern of abuse of this patient.

Examples:



Mounting the Spectra Close-up Accessory

1. Position the Close-up Accessory as shown at right. Align the accessory's lens and its windows for the camera viewfinder and exposure sensor with their respective camera components.
2. From a position slightly above and behind the front of the camera, move the Accessory into position so that the corners of its rear facing (just below the battery compartment) will fit just inside the upper corners of the camera's front face.
3. Pivot the Close-up Accessory downward, using the upper lip of the camera body as the fulcrum, until the lower part of the Accessory "snaps" into place on the front of the camera.
4. Mounted correctly, the Close-up Accessory will fit firmly on the camera as shown at right.
5. To dismount the Accessory, simply pivot it firmly forward – don't worry, it won't "break"!

Extra tip: You may need to practice mounting and dismounting the Spectra Close-up Accessory several times until you "get the feel of it".

