**Patient:**

16 year-old Male

Soccer player

**Thematic Area Affected:**

Musculoskeletal

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| **Presenting Situation** | **Primary case issues** |
| Knee pain | ACL tear |
| Unexplained bruising | Suspected child abuse |
| Depressed mood and evasive in answering questions | Father with alcohol abuse problem  Ethics of reporting suspected child abuse  Assessment of alcohol abuse |

**Case Information:**

Felt right knee “buckle” at high school soccer practice yesterday (choose a local high school) while making a sudden cut during a scrimmage session. No contact. He collapsed, and had to be helped to the sideline where he sat out the rest of practice.

Since that time, pain on weight bearing, instability/weakness, difficulty fully extending or flexing knee joint.

Stayed home from school today. Worried that he may have injured his knee.

“My dad will be upset”.

Father lost job recently due to excessive absenteeism. Drinks heavily throughout day. Gets “angry” easily when drunk. Patient will be reluctant to share that her father hits her (and her mother) when he gets angry. No sexual abuse.

**Physical Exam:**

General appearance: Cooperative and open about knee injury, but evasive and reluctant to talk about father and home situation.

Normal vital signs. Normal height, weight, BMI.

Bruises at various stages of healing on outer arms, shoulders, back (defensive wounds). “I guess I got them at soccer practice.”

Mild swelling of right knee, with joint laxity (positive anterior drawer sign).

Exam otherwise normal.

**Comments:**

Would require students to explore two main issues – acute knee injury and issues with the father.

ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injuries are very common among young male athletes.

Domestic violence and child abuse are sometimes linked to substance abuse issues, including alcoholism. Victims are often very reluctant to reveal this to health care providers, so vigilance is key.