

Community: Refugee Family Seeking Care

Nyanath is a 38 year old Muslim female who has arrived at the St. James Medical Clinic seeking medical attention. Nyanath arrived in Canada as a refugee from Sudan two years ago with her daughter. Nyanath's first language is Arabic. She speaks very little English. Nyanath is accompanied by her 12 year old daughter Minoo. Her daughter speaks English reasonably well and often interprets for her mother.

This is your first time seeing Nyanath as a patient. Between Nyanath's broken English and Minoo translating you are able to learn the following:

- Before coming to Canada two years ago Nyanath and her daughter Minoo had been living in a refugee camp on the border of Sudan and Ethiopia.
- They fled their country because of their political views and fear of reprisal from rival tribal gangs in their home village.
- While Nyanath is 38 years old, her appearance is that of a much older woman. She is visibly upset as she tries to describe their experience in Sudan. Her husband was bludgeoned to death in front of Nyanath and their children by the rebel forces during their flight out of the country. Her two sons (16 and 18 years old) are still in the refugee camp. She gets very upset when she speaks of them. She is very worried for their safety. She does not know the whereabouts of other family members.
- The conditions in the refugee camp were very poor; medical care, including immunization was non-existent, food and water were in short supply, disease was rampant and violence was common. Nyanath was raped on two occasions while in the camp.
- Nyanath's principal complaints are: persistent headaches and when menstruating her pain is severe. She has vaginal discharge and pain urinating. She also complains of palpitations and pain throughout her abdomen. She is hypertensive. She has problems sleeping and often has nightmares about their experience in the refugee camp.
- Minoo is 12 years old. She is a Grade 6 student at St. James Middle School. She sometimes comes home from school crying but will not tell her mother what is wrong. While she has no specific medical complaint you notice that while her mother is telling her story Minoo expresses no emotion and her affect is very flat. When you inquire about her health she becomes withdrawn and replies, "I am fine."