CASE AND COMMENTARY
Performing Physical Exams on Fellow Students
Commentary by Audiey Kao, MD, PhD

Case
Mary, a third-year medical student is currently doing an OB/GYN rotation. Her school has often used standardized patients to help medical students become proficient with various examinations. One day, no standardized patient is available. The attending physician suggests that one of the female medical students volunteer so that students can practice pelvic examinations. Mary feels that this is an inappropriate role for a female medical student. She feels that such a request is coercive, considering that their clerkship grade depends on such educational exercises.

Questions for Discussion
1. What should Mary do?
2. How does informed consent apply in these educational circumstances?


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