ORTHOEDIC ASPECTS
OF
CHILD ABUSE

A summary of the physical, metaphysical, psychological, and sociological aspects of Non-Accidental Injury with specific references to both the perpetrator and victim

Definition
Public Law 104-235 (1996)

• “at a minimum, any act or failure to act resulting in the imminent risk of serious harm, death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation of a child by a parent, or caretaker who is responsible for the child's welfare.”
Child Abuse

- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Physical Abuse

Definition

- Acts of commission or omission which directly or indirectly cause harm to a child
Differential Diagnosis

• Osteogenesis Imperfecta
• Metabolic Bone Disease
• Accidental Trauma

Real Case Day 2

• 18 mo. old child – “unwitnessed fall”
• Swollen foot, large bruise
  – Neg. x-rays

“Babies died. They starved, they were beaten, they died of the flu. They fell out of windows, they died of SIDS. They were snatched out of cars, they were lured away from playgrounds, they were abused by priests. And there were fates worse than that. She knew of those, too.”
“How some adults were actually excited by the cries of small children. How even a baby, a weak helpless baby, should fall into the wrong hands and through no fault of its own, become a predator’s toy”

Alone - by Lisa Gardner

Demographics

• 2/3 Medicaid as Primary payer
• 1/2 < 1 year old
• 41% of deaths < 1 year old
• 76% of deaths < 4 years old
• About ½ ages 3-20 yr. old victims have psychiatric or neurologic condition

Stepmother Indicted in Death of Disabled NC Girl

• The Associated Press Monday, February 21, 2011
• HICKORY, N.C. (AP) — The stepmother of a 10-year-old disabled girl was indicted Monday on charges she killed the child and then desecrated her remains to cover up the slaying, and authorities said they did not have evidence to charge anyone else in her death. Prosecutor James Gaither Jr. said Monday at a news conference that there was no credible evidence to suggest anyone else was involved in Zahra Baker’s slaying. The stepmother, Elisa Baker, was charged earlier Monday with second-degree murder.
Doctor's daughters tell of being confined to garage, mobile home

• The children of a former Mercy Hospital surgeon, who were removed from his home in New Mexico last week after abuse allegations, are safe with relatives pending the outcome of the case against him and his wife.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Incidence

• 15–42 / 1,000 children
• > 1200 Deaths per year

Real Case Day 8

• 18 mo. old child – “unwitnessed fall”
• Swollen Rt. foot, large bruise
  —Neg. x-rays
• Bruised Rt. thigh, and Rt. side of chest
Physical Signs - Skin

- Bruises
- Bites
- Burns
- Ages, location, patterns

Bite on Calf

Bite on Buttocks
Beat with Hair brush

Beat with electric cord

Finger marks from squeezing
Hot water burns

Ligature marks - restrained

R/O Basilar Skull fracture
Opened Hand Slap Marks

Physical Signs - Other

- Multiple Subdural Hematomas
- Retinal Hemorrhage
- Fractures
  - Multiple
  - Different ages
  - Ribs – esp. Posterior

Retinal Hemorrhage
High Specificity Fractures

- Metaphyseal (Corner) Fractures
- Bilateral Fractures
- Complex Skull Fractures
- Different Ages
- Locations
  - Ribs, Scapula, Lat. Clavicle, Vertebrae
CORNER FRACTURE

CORNER FRACTURE

CORNER FRACTURE
Abuse and Long Bone Fractures

- Non-Ambulators
- Poor History
- Conflicting Histories
- Delay in Treatment

INFANT FEMUR FRACTURE

Real Case Day 8
- 18 mo. old child – “unwitnessed fall”
- Swollen Rt. foot, large bruise
  - Neg. x-rays
- Bruised Rt. thigh, and Rt. side of chest
- Grunting with breathing
- Looks pale
Real Case - Day 8

- Returned to Pediatrician
- Sent to ER
- Chest X-ray - Large Effusion
- CBC - White Count = 204,000

Differential Diagnosis

- Osteogenesis Imperfecta
- Metabolic Bone Disease
- Accidental Trauma

Differential Diagnosis

- Osteogenesis Imperfecta
- Metabolic Bone Disease
- Accidental Trauma
- Leukemia
Your Job in Abuse

• Keep Abuse in your Differential
• Protect the Child
• Report Suspicious Cases
• Let DCFS Investigate

Sources


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- US Gov. Web site
- State of Ill. Web site

THANK YOU