

Child abuse

Definition

According to WHO :-

child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power

Non-accidental physical ,emotional or sexual injury inflicted on children by persons caring for them

Child abuse is classified into 1 of 4 major types :-

1. Neglect
2. Physical abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Psychological or emotional abuse.

It is vital to recognize non-fatal child abuse, because of the need for intervention to prevent the 60 percent recurrence rate and 10 percent mortality rate.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CHILD ABUSE

The majority of deaths are caused manually, either by hitting or beating with the hands, shaking, throwing, dropping and - less often - by burning or suffocation.

The most common cause of death is head injury. Next in frequency is rupture of an abdominal viscus

‘child abuse syndrome’ (also known as the ‘battered baby syndrome’)

an infant or child suffers repetitive physical injuries inflicted by a parent or guardian, in circumstances that exclude accident.

Most of the fatal victims are young, more than two-thirds being under 3 years of age

How to know if it's a case of child abuse or not?

“The skin and bones tell a story which the child is either too young or too frightened to tell”

Meaning that objective signs of child abuse must be sought mainly in the skin and by skeletal radiology.

1. History

The history (given by the parents, or the child lying out of fear) does not match with the age , severity and distribution of the injuries

(Disexplanation)

Delay in seeking treatment

Adults change history overtime (discrepancy)

2. Physical examination

1. Soft tissue

multiple injuries with different types ,age and site

Look for punishment sites

Brusies (very imp)

Bruise

S

Bruising around the limbs, especially the wrist and forearms, upper arms, thighs and - in small infants - around the ankles. These places form convenient 'handles' for an adult to grip the child

The buttocks are a frequent site of bruising from hand smacks or beating with a strap

Bruises on the chest, abdomen and neck are usually from finger pressure rather than slaps or blows.



The age of bruises is an important issue in child abuse because:

The observed age may be at variance with the history given by a parent, so increasing the suspicion of a non-accidental event.

Bruises of different ages indicate episodes of injury at different times, one of the hallmarks of child abuse that usually continues over a period



2.Oral injury

Lip contusion and abrasion

Frenulum tearing



3. Eye injury

Black eye , DDx !!!

Retinal hemorrhage



4. Head injury

Subdural hematoma

Subgaleal hematoma

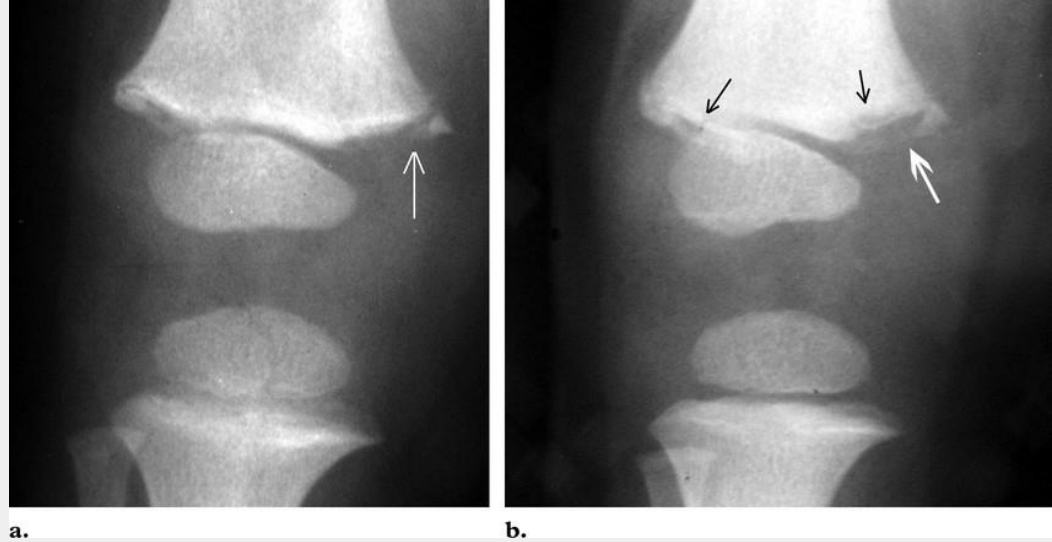


4. Skeletal injuries

1. bucket handle fracture
(injury to the metaphysis which is the growing plate at each end of a long bone)

2. ribs fractures

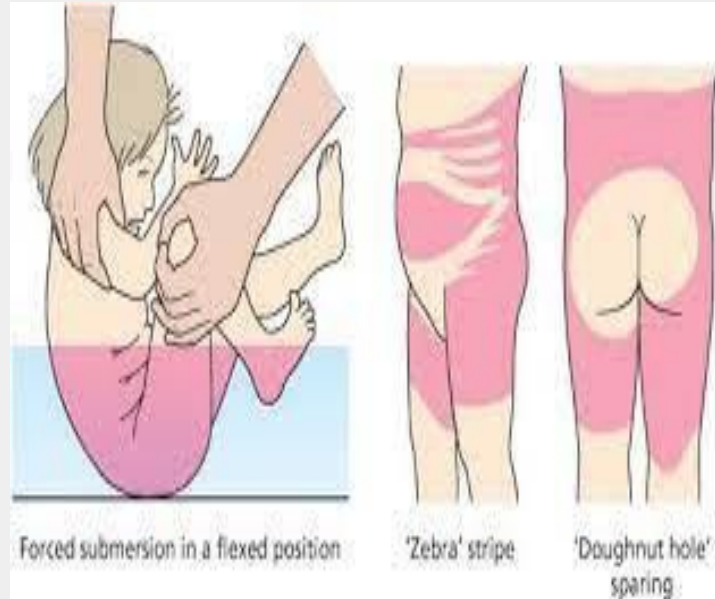
3. spiral fracture in infant



5. Thermal injury

Scald burn :

- 1.immersion
- 2.splashing
- 3.tap water



Dry burn

1.contact

2.cigarette



	children	parents
1.character	Illegal, Unwanted, troubles Abnormalities deranged 1-3 year old	Financial Mentally
2.evidence	Hospital deprivation, Injuries that don't go along with history	Delay in seeking treatment Discrepancy in history

Sequelae of child abuse

Failure to thrive

Decrease in
psychomotor skills

Learning difficulties

death

Statistics UNICEF Jordan :-

- reported child abuse cases 661 in 2002
- 1,423 in 2004.

Study by UNICEF Jordan on “Violence against Children in Jordan” (2007) :

- Physical and emotional cases constitute 50%.
- Sexual abuse constitute 45%.