

Presenter

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Topic

Evaluating injuries and bruises when child abuse is suspected

Why these cases are of interest

They were both reported for abuse but had alternative explanations for the injuries.

Case summaries

Three year old with a history of congenital heart disease referred for diffuse bruising. Remarkable in the social history is that the family is already involved with the child protection system. Workup revealed a medical reason for the bruising.

Three month old referred for bilateral abrasions on shins. Remarkable in the social history is that the mother is 17 years old. She gave alternative mechanisms for the injuries that were consistent with the findings.

Learning points

- When considering a differential diagnosis, pattern of injury is important
- Medical causes of easy bruising
- The medical work-up for bruising

Literature for review

Jackson J, Carpenter S, and Anderst J. Challenges in the evaluation for possible abuse: Presentations of congenital bleeding disorders in childhood. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 2012; 36:127-34.

Pierce MC, et al. Bruising characteristics discriminating physical child abuse from accidental trauma. *Pediatrics* 2010; 125:67-74.

Kellogg ND. Evaluation of suspected child physical abuse. *Pediatrics* 2007; 119:1232-41.