SUSPECTED CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE

What to do when physical abuse is suspected in a child under 3 years old. Determine if forensic evidence will be collected prior to cleansing and removal of clothing. Contact Social Work for all cases.

1 HISTORY
Take detailed history
Review available prior medical records (PCP, ED, Inpatient)
Review prior radiologic exams at referring hospitals
Review prior photographs

2 PHYSICAL
Growth parameters
Inspection of all body parts and thorough skin exam
Palpation of extremities and ribs for crepitus or deformities
Complete neurological exam
Oral exam with attention to lips, tongue, buccal mucosa, frena, palate, and teeth
Ear exam, scalp and hair
Genitalia examination

3 CONSULTS
Hospital Social Work
Pediatric Ophthalmologist: ask for photos of retina
Medical Photography, even if CPS or Law Enforcement take photos
Request a radiology reading and upload images of outside films
SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) if sexual abuse <96 hours prior to presentation
Consider neurosurgery, ortho, ENT

4 DIAGNOSTIC TESTS
Consider:
CBC with platelets, LFTs, Amylase/Lipase, PT/PTT, UA and stool guaiac
UDS/Toxicology
Skeletal survey with oblique view of ribs
Brain imaging (CT acutely; MRI for follow up)
Forensic evidence kit per SANE consult

5 PHOTOGRAPHY
Call Medical Photography for photos, if available
Follow photographic documentation guidelines found at www.champprogram.com,
Practice Recommendations, or scan QR code:
6 DOCUMENTATION

History obtained from whom
Physical findings with drawings and measurements
Tests ordered/performed and results
Impression: suspected physical abuse
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FURTHER INTERPRET FINDINGS IF UNCERTAIN
Write impact statement and make available to Social Work, CPS, or police.
For more information and impact statement guidelines, visit www.CHAMPProgram.com,
Resources for Professionals, or scan QR code:

7 SIBLINGS/PEDIATRIC CONTACTS

Inform CPS that all siblings and other pediatric household contacts must be referred to PCP, ED, or a Child Abuse Clinic:
- ED-Acute Issues
- PCP-Over 3 years of Age
- Child Abuse Clinic-Under 3 years of Age

8 REPORTING

If in NYS, CALL NYS MANDATED REPORTER HOTLINE
1-800-342-3720 TO MAKE A REPORT.

Ask for a scene investigation, if necessary
Complete and sign child abuse reporting form LDSS-2221A
To access form, visit NYS Office of Children and Family Services website: odfs.ny.gov or scan QR Code:

AS A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE. A REFERRAL TO A CHILD ABUSE EXPERT IS NOT THE SAME AS A HOTLINE REPORT TO NYS CENTRAL REGISTER OF CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT.

9 AT DISCHARGE

Document head circumference and other growth parameters
Make appointments with PCP and other specialists, if applicable

Upstate
Golisano Children’s Hospital