

Child Abuse

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Introduction

Definition

Child abuse is a sick and ugly
emotional aspect of the family
dysfunction in the society



Child abused

:The four major types of child abuse are

Physical abuse •

Sexual abuse •

Emotional abuse •

Neglect •

:Physical child abuse result of

Beating, slapping, or hitting •

Pushing, shaking, kicking, or throwing •

Pinching, biting, choking, or hair-pulling •

Burning with cigarettes, scalding water, or other •

hot objects

Severe physical punishment •

Sexual abuse of a child is identification of possible child abuse always consider child abuse in traumatic injuries to the head and neck as 50% of the abused children had head and neck injuries

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- :Sexual child abusers can be
 - Fathers, mothers, siblings, or other relatives •
 - Childcare professionals or babysitters •
 - Clergy, teachers •
 - Foster parents or host families of foreign •
 - exchange students
 - .Strangers •

Emotional child abuse is any attitude, behavior, or failure to act that interferes with a child's mental health or social development. It can range from a simple verbal insult .to an extreme form of punishment effects than either physical abuse or sexual abuse

:Other names for emotional abuse are

- 1) Verbal abuse
- 2) Mental abuse
- 3) psychological abuse.

Types of Physical Child Abuse

Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS)

- Shaking a baby to try to stop inconsolable crying.

Signs and symptoms.

Common symptoms are:

- Lethargy/decreased muscle tone
- Extreme irritability
- Decreased appetite,
.poor feeding or vomiting for no apparent reason

- Poor sucking or swallowing
- Difficulty in breathing
- Seizures.
- Head or forehead appears larger
- Inability to lift head
- Inability to eyes to focus •

Battered Child Syndrome

A type of physical abuse reported by Henry Kempe in 1960 characterized by;

- Multiple asymmetrical fractures at different stages of healing.
- Subdural hematoma
- Bruise marks shaped like hands, fingers or objects, or unexplained bruises in areas where normal childhood activities would not usually result in bruising

- Separated sutures
- Evidence of unexplained abdominal injury
- At times even unexplained unconsciousness in infant.
- Evidence of fractures at the tip of long bones on spiral type fractures that result from twisting
- Fractured ribs, especially in the back.

Investigations:

- Radiographs, MRI or CT-Scan
- Osteogenesis imperfecta
- Hemophilia

- Von Willebrand's disease. *Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy*

Signs that may indicate Munchausen syndrome by proxy:

- A child who has one or more medical problems that do not respond to treatment
- Insignificant physical/laboratory findings that do not correlate with clinical feature.
- A highly attentive parent who is reluctant to leave their child's side and who themselves seems to require constant attention.
- A parent, who appears to be medically knowledgeable and/or fascinated with medical details and hospital gossip, appears to enjoy hospital environment.
- The signs and symptoms of a child's illness do not occur in the parent's absence.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

It is any sudden and unexplained death of an apparently healthy infant aged one-month to one year. The term cot death is often used in United Kingdom, and crib death in North America.

SIDS can be due to any reason but child abuse can be a reason.

Sexual Abuse

Identification of possible child abuse always consider child abuse in traumatic injuries to the head and neck, 50% of the abused children had head and neck injuries . This includes:

- Fondling
- Violations of bodily privacy
- Child pornography
- Exposing children to pornography
- Luring a child for sexual liaisons
- Sexual exploitation
- Exhibitionism
- Sexual intercourse with a child
- Trauma to mouth because of oral sex.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional child abuse is another person's attitude, behavior to failure to act that interferes with a child's mental health or social development. Emotional abuse has more long lasting negative psychiatric effects than either physical or sexual abuse. Emotional abuse can range from a simple verbal insult to an extreme form of punishment

- Ignoring, withdrawal of attention, rejection
- Lack of physical affection
- Lack of positive re-inforcement
- Threats
- Habitual blaming
- Degradation, etc.

Neglect

Types of Neglect

Physical neglect: Is not providing for a child's physical needs, which are:

- Food
- Clothing appropriate for weather
- Supervision
- A home that is hygienic and safe.

Educational neglect: Failure to provide proper education rightful to the age of the child.

Emotional/psychological neglect: Not providing emotional support and love which is affection, attending to the child's emotional needs, psychological care as needed.

Medical neglect: Failing to provide needed basic medical attention to child's health care. It also includes "Dental neglect":

- 1- Dental caries, periodontal diseases and other oral conditions.
- 2- Dental neglect.

are four primary factors which contribute to child abuse:

- Parent factors
- Sociocultural factors
- Environmental factors

Child factors •

Bite Marks

This type of injury is usually associated with physical or sexual abuse. In such suspected cases, a forensic pathologist or odontologist should be contacted. Many times misdiagnosed as simple childhood bruises:

- Typically oval or circular configuration
- An area of hemorrhage, representing a “suck” or “thrust” mark, may be found between tooth marks, suggesting physical or sexual abuse
- Although marks may occur anywhere on a child’s body, the most common sites are the cheeks, back, sides, arms, buttocks.