

Child Physical Abuse

Evaluation of Physical Abuse

- PATTERN and HISTORY are critical!
- Important questions?
 - What was the child wearing?
 - What happened after the injury?
 - Who else was there?
- If it was an accidental injury, consider possible supervisory neglect.
- For patterned injuries, if possible, obtain measurements of the potential object used, or the object itself.
- **Bruises act like bruises!**

Photodocumentation

- Can provide irrefutable evidence
- Parent or guardian permission:
 - Nice, but not necessary in suspected child abuse or neglect investigations.
 - **Older child's consent is ALWAYS necessary!**
- Avoid changing the photograph in ANY way.
- SLR cameras work best, but most modern digital cameras work well.
- Use the camera's Macro feature with all close-up photographs.
- If using a photo ruler, try to keep the injury/ruler/camera parallel with each other.
- Rule of Three
 - Take at least one photograph of the child's face with documentation.
 - Take at least one photograph showing where the injury is (use landmarks such as hands, knees, shoulder, etc).
 - Take at least one photograph up close of the injury (using the Macro feature). If using a ruler, be sure to take a picture without the ruler as well.

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