

## **Chapter 2**

### **Physical Child Abuse**

#### **TEACHING POINTS**

- The term battered child syndrome, was coined in 1961 by Dr. C.H. Kempe.
- After Kempe's study, society began to accept the fact that parents, caretakers, and siblings do in fact engage in occasional or systematic battering of young children.
- Battered child syndrome is a medicolegal term that describes the diagnosis of a medical expert based on scientific studies that indicate that when a child suffers certain types of continuing injuries, those injuries were not caused by accidental means.
- All states have child abuse reporting laws mandating that caretakers report suspected cases of child abuse.
- Physical child abuse may be defined as any act that results in a nonaccidental physical injury by a person who has care, custody, or control of a child. This definition contains two key aspects: the act is intentional or willful, and the act resulted in a physical injury. An accidental injury does not qualify as child abuse.
- The physical battering of children is not a new phenomenon. Children have suffered trauma at the hands of their parents and caretakers since the beginning of recorded history.
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- The industrial revolution was characterized by repeated maltreatment of children. Young children were forced to work long hours under inhumane conditions in factories or other heavy industries.
- Every state now has laws preventing the physical abuse of children.
- Cynthia Crosson Tower grouped several theories into three distinct models: the psychopathological model, the interactional model, and the environmental–sociological–cultural model.

- Children of all ages, all races, both genders, and all socioeconomic backgrounds have been victims of physical abuse. Several studies have examined whether certain children are more at risk of being abused than others.
- Richard Asher coined the term Munchausen syndrome in 1951 to describe patients who fabricated histories of illness.
- Munchausen syndrome by proxy was first described in 1977 by a Dr. Roy Meadow.
- Shaken baby syndrome (SBS) is neurological damage caused by shaking the child violently back and forth. (The term whiplash shaken baby syndrome was originally used by Caffey to explain and highlight this type of injury.)
- Craniofacial, head, face, and neck injuries are present in more than half of all the cases of child abuse. Some authorities believe that the oral cavity may be the central focus of abuse because of its role in communication and nutrition.
- Parricide is a form of family violence that has received little attention in any research and discussion.
- The most common parricide offender may be a chronically abused child who as an adolescent kills the abusing parent.

## TEST BANK FOR CHAPTER 2

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Doctor John Caffey studied children with subdural hematomas who also had other injuries. He came to the conclusion that in the absence of a skeletal disease, children who have both subdural hematomas and long bone fractures are victims of trauma. This condition became known as
  - a. the Battered Child Syndrome.
  - b. Caffey's Syndrome.
  - c. Kempe's Syndrome.
  - d. Kempe and Caffey's Syndrome

ANSWER: b

*Ref. page: 42*

2. The Battered Child Syndrome is
- a. no longer a valid medical-legal diagnosis because of our advances in medical science.
  - b. is a medical-legal term used to describe children who are suffering from long bone fractures and subdural hematomas.
  - c. is a term that describes the characteristics of children who are abused as a result of the Cycle of Violence.
  - d. is a medicolegal term that describes the diagnosis of a medical expert based upon scientific studies that indicate when a child suffers certain types of continuing injuries that those injuries were not caused by accidental means.

ANSWER: d                      *Ref. page: 42*

3. Physical Child Abuse is defined as
- a. any act which results in nonaccidental physical injury by a person who has care, custody or control of a child.
  - b. includes sexual, emotional and neglectful acts against a child.
  - c. any act which causes a physical injury to the child.
  - d. both a and c.

ANSWER: a                      *Ref. page: 43*

4. The Psychopathological Model of family violence
- a. stresses the characteristics of the abuser as the primary cause of abuse.
  - b. is no longer considered a valid theory to explain child abuse.
  - c. discounts the abuser's personality as a factor in child abuse.
  - d. both b and c.

ANSWER: a                      *Ref. page: 4 1*

5. The Psychopathological Model of family violence includes the following approaches to child abuse
- a. the cycle of violence model, the mental illness model, and the character-trait model.
  - b. the character-trait model, the mental illness model, and the psychodynamic model.

c. the social learning model, the mental illness model and the psychiatric model.

d. the mental illness model, the social learning model and the character-trait model. ANSWER: b    *Ref. page: 48*

6. The Interactional Model of child abuse views it as the result of dysfunctional system. This model focuses on the following factors in child abuse
- a. the role of the child, planned events and the background of the parent.
  - b. the perceptions of the parent, the role of the child and chance events.
  - c. the family structure, the role of the child and the background of the parents.
  - d. the family structure, chance events, and the role of the child.

ANSWER: d                      *Ref. page:*  
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7. The Environmental-Sociological-Cultural Model of child abuse views it a result of stresses in society that are the primary causes of abuse. This model includes the following causes of child abuse
- a. the environmental stress model, the psychosocial model, the social-learning model and the social-psychological model

b. the social learning model, the psychological model, the environmental stress model and the social-psychological model.

c. the psychological model, the family structure model and cultural

model.. d. the environmental model, the cultural model and the

sociological model. ANSWER: a *Ref. page: 49*

8. Which of the following physical indicators should alert a professional to the possibility of physical child abuse

a. unexplained bruises or welts and/or unexplained burns

b. unexplained lacerations to the mouth, lips, arms and/or

legs. c. appearance of injuries after a weekend or vacation

d. all of the above

ANSWER: d *Ref. page: 52*

9. When interviewing caretakers regarding their explanation of injuries to a child, a. care must be taken not to plant ideas in the minds of the caretakers.

b. the caretakers should be interviewed separately.

c. consistent explanations by the caretakers may indicate child abuse d. all of the above

ANSWER: b *Ref. page: 52*

10. Bruises that are yellow in color typically indicate that the injury occurred a. 0-5 days ago

b. 5-7 days ago

c. 7-10 days

ago d. 10-14

days ago

ANSWER: c                      *Ref. page: 53*

11. Which of the following does not indicate the possibility of physical child

abuse a. allergic shiners

b. grab marks on the upper arms

c. pressure marks on the inner

thighs d. runaway or delinquent

behavior ANSWER: a *Ref. page:*

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12. Pattern burns are a form of child abuse

a. where the abuser engages in a pattern of conduct which results in the child being repeatedly burned by a hot object.

b. which are caused by holding or pressing a portion of the child's body against a hot object.

c. which are very difficult to

prove. d. both a and b.

ANSWER: b                      *Ref. page: 57*

13. Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy is also known

as a. The False Disease Disorder.

b. The Wrong Disease Diagnosis

Syndrome. c. Fictitious Disorder by Proxy

d. both a and c.

ANSWER: c                      *Ref. page: 58*

14.     Spiral fractures are
- a. a very strong indication of physical child abuse.
  - b. usually a break in the humerus or femur that is the result of a twisting motion.
  - c. can occur if a child under three years old catches his or her foot and falls down causing the injury.
  - d. both a and b.

ANSWER: d                      *Ref. page: 64*

15.     The whiplash shaken baby syndrome
- a. was a term coined by Kempe in 1961 when he was trying to attract attention to child abuse.
  - b. is not a an accepted medical diagnosis.
  - c. is neurological damage caused by shaking the child violently back and forth.
  - d. both a and b.

ANSWER: c                      *Ref. page: 67*

16.     Subdural hematomas (SDH)
- a. is a very strong indication of physical child abuse.
  - b. may result if the child falls off a couch and injures his or her head.
  - c. occur over the surface of the brain and are caused by the tearing of the bridging veins between the brain and the dura.

d. all of the above

ANSWER: c                      *Ref. page: 65*

17. A concussion is

a. a mild form of diffuse brain injury associated with the acceleration-deceleration or shaking of the child's head.

b. the same as a subdural hematomas.

c. is a very strong indication of physical child

abuse. d. all of the above.

ANSWER: a                      *Ref. page: 66*

### **True-False Questions**

1. Kempe and his associates invented the *term Battered Child Syndrome* to call attention to child abuse.

ANSWER: True                      *Ref. page: 42*

2. Caffey's syndrome is the same as the whiplash shaken baby syndrome.

ANSWER: False                      *Ref. page: 42*

3. Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy is easy to diagnose.

ANSWER: False                      *Ref. page: 59*

4. A cerebral contusion is the bruising of the brain without the puncture or tearing of the pia membrane.

ANSWER: True                      *Ref. page: 66*

5. A spiral fracture in a child under the age of 3 is nearly always accidental.

ANSWER: False                      *Ref. page: 63*

6. The membrane next to the brain is the pia matter.

ANSWER: True                      *Ref. page: 65*



7. There are differences of opinions as what types of discipline should be considered as child abuse.

ANSWER: True      *Ref. page: 43-44*

8. Numerous fractures are a strong indicator of physical abuse.

ANSWER: True      *Ref. page: 64*

9. Mary Ellen was probably the first reported case on child abuse in the United States.

ANSWER: True      *Ref. page: 46*

10. Chest and abdominal injuries are common physical child abuse injuries.

ANSWER: True      *Ref. page: 68*

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### **Essay Questions**

1. Compare and contrast the various theories of abuse established by Crosson-Tower.
2. List the various indicators of abuse.
3. In your opinion, which is the most serious form of child abuse: bruises, burns, fractures, or head and internal injuries?
4. Describe the causes of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) and the effects it has on the child.
5. List the various bruise colors and estimate the time progression which these may demonstrate.