

Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma

Quiz Questions

Section 1

True or false: "Abusive Head Trauma" is the preferred term for medical documentation of the injuries associated with "shaken baby syndrome."

Answer: True.

True or false: Abusive head trauma is the second most common cause of death from brain injury in children less than one year of age.

Answer: False. Abusive head trauma is the leading cause of death from brain injury in children less than one year of age.

Section 2

True or false: It is unusual for a child with abusive head trauma to have had inflicted injury in the past.

Answer: False. Child maltreatment, including abusive head trauma, is usually a pattern of escalating violence over time. It is unusual for a child to be seriously injured or killed the first time they are abused.

Which of the following is NOT an anatomical difference in the infant head that makes it more vulnerable to injury from abusive head trauma?

- A. More space between the outside of the brain and the inside of the skull
- B. Less scalp tissue to cushion the head against impact
- C. Higher water content of the infant brain
- D. Larger head-to-body ratio compared to an adult
- E. Relatively weak neck muscles compared to an adult

Answer: B. There are no known differences in the thickness of scalp tissue in infants. In addition, impact might or might not be involved in a given case of abusive head trauma.

Section 3

True or false: Birth trauma can result in some of the same findings seen in abusive head trauma.

Answer: True. However, birth trauma and abusive head trauma can be distinguished from one another by medical professionals with special training and experience in this area.

True or false: The act of shaking leading to Shaken Baby Syndrome is so violent that individuals observing it would recognize it as dangerous and likely to kill the child.

Answer: True. This statement was part of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Technical Report released in 2001.

Section 4

Which of the following is the mechanism for posterior rib fractures in maltreated infants?

- A. A direct impact to the back
- B. Violent squeezing of the rib cage
- C. Normal vaginal delivery
- D. All of the above

Answer: B. Neither a direct impact to the back nor a normal vaginal delivery is a plausible cause of posterior rib fractures in infants.

True or false: Most children who present with abusive head trauma will have obvious external evidence of trauma to the head.

Answer: False. Most children who present with abusive head trauma will have no obvious external evidence of injury.

Section 5

True or false: Presence of bruising to the torso, ears, or neck in a child 4 years of age or younger is definitive evidence of child abuse.

Answer: False. Presence of bruising to the torso, ears, or neck in a child 4 years of age or younger is indicative of risk for maltreatment that needs to be explored further. The TEN-4 rule is a screening tool to identify risk, not a diagnostic tool.

True or false: Toddlers who have begun to cruise and take independent steps commonly have bruising to the forehead, knees, or shins.

Answer: True. Mobile toddlers tend to get accidental bruises on the fronts of their bodies over bony prominences, such as the forehead, knees, and shins.

Section 6

True or false: Toilet training accidents are the most common trigger for abusive head trauma.

Answer: False. Crying is the most common trigger for abusive head trauma.

True or false: Unrealistic expectations of young children is a common characteristic among perpetrators of child physical abuse.

Answer: True.

Section 7

Which of the following is NOT a risk factor for abuse among children?

- A. Colic
- B. Developmental delay
- C. Special medical needs
- D. First born
- E. Physical disability

Answer: D. Being a first born child does not increase the risk of maltreatment.

True or false: Men are the most common perpetrators of child physical abuse.

Answer: True. Fathers are the most common perpetrators of child physical abuse, followed by mothers' boyfriends. Mothers are the third most common perpetrators.

Section 8

True or false: If taught proper soothing techniques, any parent or caregiver should be able to calm a crying infant.

Answer: False. Babies often cry, and sometimes there are no soothing techniques that will calm them.

True or false: Caregivers should never leave a baby to cry unattended in his or her crib.

Answer: False. If the caregiver is beginning to feel frustrated or angry, it is much safer to place the baby on his or her back in a safe place and take a break. It is important to give caregivers permission to take a break from a crying infant.