

"The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children"

Hear Them ◆ Believe Them ◆ Protect Them

## FRACTURES IN ABUSE

### HIGH SPECIFICITY:

- Classic Metaphyseal Lesions (corner or bucket-handle)
- Rib fractures (esp. posterior)
- Scapular fractures
- Sternal fractures

### MODERATE SPECIFICITY:

- Multiple Fractures (especially bilateral)
- Fractures of different ages
- Epiphyseal separations
- Vertebral body fractures and subluxations
- Digital fractures
- Complex skull fractures

### COMMON, LOW SPECIFICITY:

- Subperiosteal new bone formation
- Clavicle fractures
- Long bone fractures
- Linear skull fracture

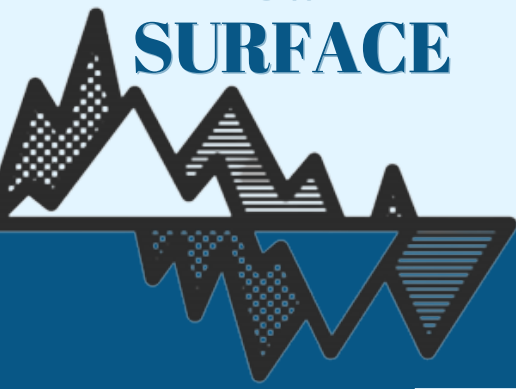
## BRUISING IN ABUSE

### TEN 4 FACES P

- T Torso including genitals
- E Ears
- N Neck
  
- 4 Any bruising in a child less than 4 months of age
  
- F Frenulum
- A Angle of the mandible
- C Cheek
- E Eyelid
- S Subconjunctival hemorrhage
  
- P Patterned injury

### NUMBER OF BRUISING:

- Accidental trauma-  $\leq 4$  bruises
- Nonaccidental trauma (NAT)- up to 25 bruises (median 6)
- Age of bruise is hard to determine



"Behavior is the language of trauma.

Children will show you before they tell you that they are in distress."

## IMMERSION BURNS

### TYPICAL PATTERNS:

- Level of water results in uniform demarcation line
- Flexing results in apposition of skin surfaces and burn protection
- Surface contact protects skin from hot water

## RETINAL HEMORRHAGES

### DILATED EYE EXAM:

- Highly associated with abusive head trauma ("shaken baby syndrome")
- Blood accumulation in the layers of the retina
- Caused by vitreoretinal traction

## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

### DYNAMICS:

- Different than adult sexual abuse
- Victim typically knows perpetrator
- Grooming often involved:
  - Less violent encounter
  - Less likelihood of injuries

### MYTHS:

- Normal-appearing, well educated, mid-upper class people do not molest children
- Child molesters molest indiscriminately
- Children who are abused will immediately tell someone
- Children who are abused will show physical evidence of abuse

### IT'S NORMAL TO BE NORMAL:

- Low frequency of abnormal exams
- if positive findings:
  - Hymen injury or trauma
  - Sexually Transmitted Infections
  - Pregnancy
  - Semen in forensic specimens