

Syllabus	PA_IK_13
Topic	Safeguarding children

You have anaesthetised a 5-year-old boy for manipulation of a forearm fracture. During the operation you notice that he has multiple bruises on his upper arms and body that you think may indicate child abuse.

a)

List 6 types of physical injury other than bruises that should raise concerns of abuse in a child of this age (6 marks)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

b)

List 5 parental factors that are known to increase the risk of child abuse (5 marks)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

c)

List 2 features of a child's past medical history that are known to increase the risk of them being abused as a child (2 marks)

- 1)
- 2)

d)

What timely actions must be taken as a result of your concerns in this child? (7 marks)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

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Q	Answer	Mark	Guidance
a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Bites</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ human bite marks unlikely to be caused by a child ○ animal bites in a child inadequately supervised • <u>Lacerations (cuts), abrasions, scars</u>: with unsuitable explanation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ on a child who is not independently mobile, ○ that are multiple, ○ with a symmetrical distribution ○ on areas usually protected by clothing (for example, back, chest, abdomen, axilla, genital area) ○ on the eyes, ears and sides of face, ○ on the neck, ankles and wrists that look like ligature marks. • <u>Thermal injuries</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if the explanation for the injury is absent or unsuitable ○ if the child is not independently mobile ○ on any soft tissue area that would not be expected to come into contact with a hot object in an accident (for example, the backs of hands, soles of feet, buttocks, back) ○ in the shape of an implement (for example, cigarette, iron) ○ that indicate forced immersion, for example: scalds to buttocks, perineum and lower limbs scalds to limbs in a glove or stocking distribution scalds to limbs with symmetrical distribution scalds with sharply delineated borders • <u>Cold injuries</u>: e.g. hypothermia or swollen, red hands and feet with no 	1 mark for each (Max. 6)	

	<p>medical explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Fractures</u>: (unless explained by a medical condition) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fractures of different ages ○ X-ray evidence of occult fractures • <u>Intra-cranial injuries</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the explanation is absent or unsuitable ○ the child is aged under 3 years ○ there are also: retinal haemorrhages, rib or long bone fractures or other associated inflicted injuries ○ multiple subdural haemorrhages with or without subarachnoid haemorrhage with or without hypoxic ischaemic damage • <u>Eye trauma</u>: retinal haemorrhages • <u>Spinal injuries</u> • <u>Visceral injuries</u> • <u>Oral injuries</u> • <u>Ano-genital signs and symptoms</u> 		
b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low parental capacity • Domestic violence • Poverty • Parental learning disability • Parental history of being abused as a child • Parental mental ill health • Parental substance misuse 	<p>1 mark for each (Max. 5)</p>	
c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is within the care system • Child has physical disability • Child has mental disability 	<p>1 mark for each (Max. 2)</p>	
d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss findings with consultant surgeon of the child • Discuss findings with consultant paediatrician for safeguarding • Arrange to meet child and parent as soon as possible post-op before the family left the hospital with the 		

	<p>paediatrician present or trained member of nursing staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek an explanation for the injury from both the parent and child in an open non-judgemental manner • Record in the child's clinical record exactly what is observed • Record in the child's clinical record exactly what is heard from whom and when • Decide if child maltreatment needs to be considered or suspected and take the appropriate action • If concerned, a child protection referral needs to be made to social services 		
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References:

- 1) NICE Clinical Guideline 89 – Child maltreatment: When to suspect maltreatment in under 18s (2009, updated 2017) <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg89/resources/child-maltreatment-when-to-suspect-maltreatment-in-under-18s-pdf-975697287109>
- 2) Royal College of Anaesthetists: <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/safety-standards-quality/guidance-resources/safeguarding-ethics-consent/child-protection>
- 3) Royal College of Anaesthetists: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpxXd6C1YrE&feature=youtu.be>