

A Series of Unfortunate Events: A Case Report of Infantile Non-accidental Injury

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INTRODUCTION:

Non-accidental injury (NAI) is an injury that was induced intentionally. (1) Culturally there may be hesitance to admit failure in the community regarding child endangerment and fear of backlash from the family. We report this case to revisit the signs of NAI and by doing so, reinforce awareness within our medical community to be better advocates for these children.

REPORT:

A 9-month old boy, was referred for acute on chronic right subdural hemorrhage after a trivial fall. Other acute injuries were torn upper lip frenulum and multiple bruises. Old injuries were ribs fracture and healed right femur fracture.

He was under review for the right femur fracture elsewhere after a trivial fall 3 weeks ago. Initial radiographs showed healing fracture over the proximal right femur. No further treatment was initiated at current presentation as fracture healed.

He had normal milestones and no family history of skeletal dysplasia or metabolic bone disease. Clinically there was no dysmorphism with weight of below the 3rd centile which signified failure to thrive.

His right thigh was swollen with bony hard texture. There was no other deformity.

Right femur radiograph showed united subtrochanteric fracture with exuberant callus formation. Skeletal survey found multiple ribs fracture. Bone profile (calcium, phosphate, vitamin D, ALP) were normal, negating a pathological fracture. Patient survived with left sided body weakness. His condition improved and was discharged 3 weeks to mother after brain operation and subsequently defaulted.

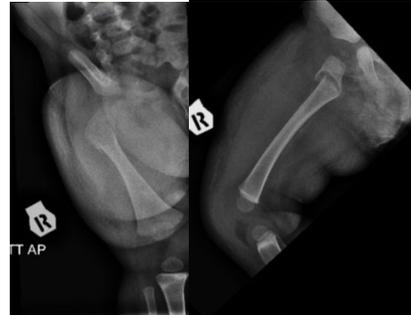


Figure 1: Initial radiograph



Figure 2: radiograph upon current presentation

CONCLUSION:

Femur fracture in non-ambulatory infants is suspected NAI until proven otherwise. Admitting the child for further management and investigation of primary bone disorders while tactfully alerting the local SCAN team to assist with social assessment will save a child's life. It is vital to recognize NAI at the 1st encounter because it could be the last encounter for the child.

REFERENCES:

1. Amr Abdelgawad (2013). Non Accidental Trauma. Paediatric Orthopaedics. (pp 399) Springer.