A REVIEW OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA) REPORTS

Background Few areas of paediatrics have expanded so rapidly in clinical importance as that of sexual abuse of children. What Kempe called a “hidden paediatric problem” in 1977 is certainly less hidden at present. The NSPCC statistics April 2014 showed 1 in 20 children have been sexually abused. 5% of all the children on child protection registers or the subject of child protection plans in the UK were under a category of sexual abuse. Childhood sexual abuse has been correlated with long term morbidities like mental health problems and sexual and relationship problems. So this is a significant public health problem.

Aim We aimed to gain more knowledge on the CSA (child sexual abuse) examination findings in particular the anal findings, the demographics and to find out the prevalence of significant positive findings.

Methodology We carried out a retrospective analysis of CSA reports of children who underwent CSA examination during the 2 year period – April 2011 to April 2013. The electronic reports were accessed following formal permission from the trust.

Findings Majority of the children who underwent CSA examination are females (Figure 1). Only a small proportion of boys were examined. Most of the children were arranged to have the examination following disclosure (Table 1). Nearly half of the male children were noted to have some significant findings; however some of them were conclusive of sexual activity rather than abuse. Only 8.8% of children had positive anal findings and 54% had consistent history.

Conclusion Sexual abuse presents in many ways and because children who are sexually abused generally are coerced into secrecy, a high level of suspicion may be required to recognise the problem. Only a small proportion of children were noted to have clinical anal findings, so a detailed history taking is vital.

Abstract G51(P) Table 1 Reason for CSA examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for CSA examination</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disclosure</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibling disclosure</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd party concerns</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexualized behaviour</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porn website pictures</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitting on bottom</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recurrent Vulvovaginitis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital Bleeding</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anal warts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme distress during nappy changes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results of examination following disclosure

Abstract G52(P) EVALUATING A SAFEGUARDING PEER REVIEW AND REFLECTIVE SUPERVISION INTERVENTION: EXPLORING PAEDIATRICIANS’ PARTICIPATION AND LEARNING
 LISTENING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – THE VOICE OF THE CHILD IN CHILD PROTECTION MEDICALS

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Background The RCPCH Child Protection Companion 2013 states ‘Record in quotes and verbatim. Record your questions, verbatim’. Nurses have a long history of acting as advocates for children ensuring that children’s and young people’s voices are heard in relation to their health, well-being and care. Children who had experience of the child protection system themselves ‘voiced the importance of being heard separately from their parents and being listened to’ (Munro, 2011).

Aims To examine whether the voice of the child was being heard and documented in our child protection medical reports.

Method All typed child protection medical reports by community paediatricians from January 2014 to November 2014 for children age 6 and above were examined (excluding child death).

Evidence in reports fell into 4 categories.
- Documentation that the entire history was obtained from the child, negating the need for quotation marks.
- Dialogue quoting specific questions asked and answers.
- Selected quotes from the child.
- Descriptive documentation without quotations e.g. child told me..., he explained...

Results 37 medical reports met the criteria. All 37 reports (100%) had one form of documented evidence the voice of the child had been heard.

- 10 of 37 (27%) reports the history was documented as obtained from the child, and within 3 of these there was also quoted dialogue.
- 2 of 37 reports (5.4%) contained documented dialogue.
- 17 of 37 (45.9%) documented selected quotes.
- 8 of 37 (21.6%) contained descriptive terms only.

Conclusions 100% of child protection reports examined had documented evidence that we listened to the voice of the child. There is much variability in how we as paediatricians are documenting this.

This variability reflects both the examiner, their experience and personal history taking style, as well as the child, their age, confidence, persons present and simply how much they are willing to share at that time.

There should be more joint working and training between Paediatricians and Children’s Nurses to establish secure environments which help children find their voice, specifically in child protection medicals.

PAIN IN THE NECK! NON-ACCIDENTAL, NON-LETHAL ATTEMPTED STRANGULATION IN CHILDREN. A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF 6 CASES SEEN IN A YEAR

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Background The neck is a vulnerable part of the body due to its close proximity with major blood vessels, trachea and lack of bony protection. Neck injuries are more likely than not to be non-accidental. 2.5% of deaths worldwide are by strangulation. Symptoms in survivors include bruising, hoarse voice, dysphagia, unconsciousness, surgical emphysema and psychological problems in the long term.

There is little literature about non-lethal, non-accidental strangulation injuries in children.

Method Case note review in a 12 month period of 6 children presenting with neck bruising and alleging to being strangled...