Pediatric Abuse and Neglect Screening for the Emergency Department

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Methods
- A pre-survey evaluation tool was used to assess baseline knowledge and comfort level in recognizing child maltreatment.
- Education on child abuse and screening tool was provided to the ED nursing staff.
- The Tool was implemented in the triage setting for all patients ages 0-17.
- A post-evaluation survey was conducted 6 months after the education to determine the nurses' perception on the effectiveness of the screening tool.
- A questionnaire was completed by members of the community to determine their comfort in the detection and reporting of child abuse cases.

Background
- A 2-month-old baby boy was seen and treated in the ED for fussiness.
- No obvious signs of trauma were present.
- 24 hours later the patient returned with a subdural hematoma. What did we miss?

Objective
- To develop a screening tool for identification of (potential) pediatric abuse, with particular emphasis on children less than 1 year of age.
- To identify barriers which prevent early recognition and reporting in suspected child abuse cases for medical staff and the community at large.
- To formulate a collaborative interdisciplinary approach for the detection and care of children and families suffering from abuse and neglect.

Results
- 97% of participating nurses felt the tool was useful and stated they were more comfortable reporting potential abuse cases.

Conclusion
- The results of the questionnaire demonstrated that the education provided about child abuse/neglect and its detection significantly impacted nurses.
- This raised awareness and broadened the potential for detecting child abuse/neglect, thereby increasing the frequency of reporting and, more importantly, the number of indicated cases discovered:

MacNeal Hospital Reportable Child Abuse Cases

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Number of</th>
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</tbody>
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- The Child Abuse Task force utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach which strives to maximize the awareness, recognition, and reporting of child abuse throughout the community and optimize the education provided to medical personnel.
- The ultimate goal of task force is to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect.

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References
- https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/fatality.pdf
- http://americanspcc.org/childabuse-statistics/
- www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/EconomicCost.html