Erratum

Physical child abuse demands increased awareness during health and socioeconomic crises like COVID-19

A review and education material

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The infographic about red flags that should raise suspicion of physical child abuse (Figure 1 in Supplementary data) has been updated with minor text corrections. Furthermore, a complete reference list for the infographic has been added.

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Supplementary data

SUSPICION OF PHYSICAL CHILD ABUSE

DO NOT HESITATE

Consult with Child Protection Team

Act according to your local guidelines and laws

ANAMNESTIC RED FLAGS

All injuries in child < 6 months of age

No trauma/denial of trauma

No witness to injury

AND/OR

Delay in seeking medical care

History not compatible with injury

Repeated emergency room visits

OBJECTIVE RED FLAGS

Respiratory deterioration

Seizures

Retinal hemorrhage

SKIN

AND/OR

Infant with any bruise

Child < 4 years: bruise in specific regions ^a

Burns and bite marks

RADIOLOGICAL RED FLAGS

Any fracture in child unable to transport itself

Long-bone fractures: femur, humerus, tibia

Rib fractures

Multiple fractures

Multiple fractures of different ages

Classic metaphyseal lesion(s)

Skull fracture(s)

Subdural hematoma/hygroma

RISK INDICATORS

CHILD

Internalizing behaviors (fearfulness, social distancing) (1)

Externalizing behaviors (violence, hyperactivity) (1)

Lack of social competences (1)

Appears neglected (2)

Learning and intellectual disability (3)

Born prematurely (4)

Living in foster care (5)

Prior contact with social services (6)

RISK INDICATORS

CAR<u>EGIVER</u>

Low parental age (1)

Low socioeconomic status (1)

Violence in family (1)

Maltreated in childhood (1)

Multiple pregnancies/twins/triplets (1)

Substance abuse (1)

Psychiatric illness (1,7)

For example depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, attention deficit, hyperactivity disorder, internet gaming disorder

RISK INDICATORS

ENVIRONMENT

Health crises (2,8)

Natural disasters (9)

High levels of violent crime (10)

Low neighborhood cohesion (11)

Neighborhood poverty (12)

Relational issues between caregivers (1)

Inappropriate interaction between caregiver-child (2)

Figure 1. Red flags and risk indicators of physical child abuse.

^a Regions: chest, abdomen, back, buttocks, genitourinary region, hips, ears, neck