Non-Accidental Trauma 2

ED Goals of Care

Treat
Treatment serious/life-threatening injuries and stabilize the patient

Record
Thoroughly document the pertinent history of physical exam findings

Report
Mandatory reporting to investigating non-accidental trauma

Consider
If the other siblings and family members in the household are safe

NAT Workup

Consider NAT in any child presenting with:

- Non-accidental trauma, significant head injury, or alter mental status, or ALT can indicate non-accidental trauma
- Wasting, and refusal to weight bear or be an extremity can indicate fracture
- Able pain, shock or vomiting can indicate internal bleeding
- The suspicion of any injuries that are consistent with the history

Investigations

Imaging

The goal of imaging is to identify both medically treatable and forensically significant injuries

- **Skeletal Survey**: Indicated if age < 24 months or concern for skeletal survey of no bone.
- **AST, ALT, UA, Lipase**: Indicated if indicated to rule out abdominal injury.
- **Ophtalmology**: Indicated if suspicion for eye or orbital injury.
- **CT** if the child has a head injury suspected.
- **EEG** monitoring indicated if suspicion for head injury.
- **MRI** if evidence of injury and or delayed presentation.
- **Skeletal survey** not used as a routine practice.

Management

Children with abusive head trauma tend to have higher mortality.

- **Non-accidental trauma** can occur in up to 38% of abusive head trauma.
- **SOS monitoring** may be considered.
- **Management of other abusive traumatic injuries** is similar to management of non-accidental trauma.

**Emergency physicians required to report all possible circumstances**: abuse to CPS agencies

- Reporting gross and secondary, prevent other children from the environment, and provide social resources for the family.
- Submit a report that will not automatically remove a child from home/grounded, for a GPS to properly investigate

Children with concerns for abuse may be discharged if:

- Injuries have been treated and stabilized.
- Concerns for child abuse have been reported to proper authorities.
- The child has a safe environment to return to.