

Standardized Physical Abuse Guideline

When to consider physical abuse or non-accidental trauma:

Pre-ambulatory ¹	Ambulatory ¹⁰
<p>ANY injury, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruise² • Burn or laceration³ • Mouth injury (e.g. frenulum tear, lip laceration)⁴ • Eye injury (e.g. subconjunctival hemorrhage)⁵ • Intracranial injury⁶ • Abdominal injury⁷ • Genital injury⁸ • Fracture⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruise to non-bony or concerning locations (e.g. torso, ears, neck, face, buttock, thigh, upper arm, genitals)^{11,12} • Patterned injuries (including adult appearing bite marks)¹³ • Multiple injuries in different stages of healing^{9,14} • Injury that is not explained by a trauma history or a medical condition¹⁵ • Trauma history that is not consistent with child's developmental capabilities¹⁵ • Important details of the trauma history significantly change or differ between caregivers¹⁵ • Unexplained delay in obtaining medical care¹⁶ • Any fracture <12 months of age^{9,14} • Classic metaphyseal lesions (CML), rib, scapular, spinous process, sternal, or vertebral body fractures¹⁷
<p>Note: Physical abuse need not be worked up if injury was observed by an impartial witness in a public location, or if subconjunctival hemorrhage <2 weeks of age, confirmed birth-related injury, confirmed motor vehicle accident injury, animal bite, hair tourniquet, corneal abrasion, or surgical wound.</p>	

If you are concerned AT ALL for physical abuse or non-accidental trauma, please use this guideline:

<6 months of age	6-12 months of age	>12-36 months of age
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Work consult • Full skin/oral exam • Skeletal survey¹⁸⁻²² • Head CT²³⁻²⁴ • AST, ALT, lipase²⁵⁻²⁶ • Abdominal CT if AST or ALT $\geq 80$²⁷ • Troponin I for infants ≥ 3 months of age if AST or ALT ≥ 80, signs of chest trauma, or ill appearance²⁸⁻³⁰ • CBC, PT, PTT if bruising or ICH present³¹⁻³² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Work consult • Full skin/oral exam • Skeletal survey¹⁹⁻²² • AST, ALT, lipase²⁵⁻²⁶ • Abdominal CT if AST or ALT $\geq 80$²⁷ • Troponin I if AST or ALT ≥ 80, signs of chest trauma, or ill appearance²⁸⁻³⁰ • Strongly consider Head CT (should be obtained if facial bruising, abnormal neurological examination, or other clinical concern)²³⁻²⁴ • CBC, PT, PTT if bruising or ICH present³¹⁻³² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Work consult • Full skin/oral exam • Skeletal survey for <24 months²⁰⁻²² • <i>Strongly consider</i> skeletal survey for 24-36 months if severely injured • <i>Strongly consider</i> AST, ALT, lipase²⁵⁻²⁶ • Abdominal CT if AST or ALT $\geq 80$²⁷ • Troponin I if AST or ALT ≥ 80, signs of chest trauma, or ill appearance²⁸⁻³⁰ • Head CT for abnormal neurological examination or other clinical concern • CBC, PT, PTT if bruising or ICH present³¹⁻³²
<p>Note: For siblings at risk, please discuss with Mayerson on-call physician.</p>		

*This guideline is intended as a guide for non-accidental trauma and physical abuse work-up in order to prevent further injuries and possibly death. Please contact Elena Duma (elena.duma@cchmc.org) or Eileen Murtagh-Kurowski (eileen.murtagh-kurowski@cchmc.org) for any questions or concerns about the guideline. For specific cases or questions, please contact the Mayerson on-call physician or on-call Social Worker (pager: 513-736-4410).

DISCUSSING THE PHYSICAL ABUSE WORK-UP WITH THE FAMILY – EXAMPLE SCRIPT

“Any time a child of this age comes to the hospital with [this injury/these injuries], we evaluate for other injuries. Sometimes a child can have internal injuries, such as fractures, head injury, or abdominal injury that we cannot see on the outside. Just like you, we want to make sure that your child is okay, so it is important that we do this testing. These tests include _____. We will also have our Social Worker come talk with you. This is a standard part of our evaluation. We are happy to answer any questions or concerns along the way.”

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