

CASE 1

On the Event Date 18-week old male woke up crying, inconsolable, and went limp. 911 called, Dad gave rescue breaths. Child transported to local hospital where he was described as crying, but alert, consolable, with good color and good activity. Imagery at the hospital suggested subacute bilateral subdural hematomas. A small focus of parenchymal blood anteriorly high convexity on the left was noted. A head to toe physical examination revealed no outward sign of injury of any kind; no wounds, bruises, redness, cervical, thoracic, or lumbar spine tenderness, no marks or petechiae. The child was moving all extremities equally, eyes demonstrated no acute changes. There was no scleral hemorrhage. There was positive red reflex in the back of his eyes and they appeared normal. Bone surveys revealed no evidence of bone fracture, or old or healed injuries. Subdural hematoma was confirmed by new imagery. Bilateral retinal hemorrhages were observed.

Review of the medical records and family history revealed:

- A. Child's older sister had a head circumference in the 95% percentile for her age and had been diagnosed as having extra-axial fluid with mild ventriculomegaly, consistent with clinical features of benign macrocephaly.
- B. During the 4 ½ months following birth the child experienced dramatic head circumference increase, especially during the later two months consistent with reported cases of external hydrocephalus.
- C. 2 days before the Event Date he was taken to Urgent Care with a report of crying, sleeping for only about 20 minutes at a time, and vomiting. Urgent Care was unable to make a diagnosis and child released home.
- D. Later the same day he continued to be unwell and continued to vomit. He was taken to his pediatrician later that same day where he was diagnosed with herpangina (mouth blisters) and placed on Motrin.
- E. Child continued to appear sick with increased irritability, decreased feeding, and occasional vomiting, four to five occasions of vomiting within the 24 hours previous to the Event Date.

Juvenile abuse and neglect proceedings followed. Disposition: Agreed dismissal with no findings of abuse or neglect.