

CASE 4

Four month old male sleeping when both Mom and Dad state the baby made an “unusual cry”. Mom said baby looked very pale and that his eyes were rolled back in his head. He seemed stiff. Parents take child immediately by car to the emergency room. There the child is described as follows:

- A. Skin is warm, dry and intact with appropriate color and turgor. No abrasions, lacerations, or significant bruising noted.
- B. Abdomen soft, non-distended, non-tender. No complaint of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or constipation.
- C. Moving all extremities, no tenderness, no deformities noted.
- D. Pharynx normal. The neck is supple, with no evidence of meningismus. No cervical adenopathy is noted. Lots of secretions in the mouth
- E. The abdomen is soft and nontender to palpation. No organomegaly.
- F. No extremity tenderness. Stiff in the extremities but no clonic movements.

CT examination indicated acute subdural hematoma over the right frontal lobe measuring up to 6 mm in thickness. Also subdural hematoma within the right interhemispheric fissure measuring up to 15 mm in thickness. No intraparenchymal bleeds. The ventricles are normal in size without midline shift or mass effect. Retinal examination indicated diffuse retinal hemorrhages in the right side that extend out to the periphery.

Juvenile abuse and neglect proceedings followed after medical opinion that these injuries were the result of inflicted head and eye trauma due to cranio-rotational forces.

Outcome: Agreed dismissal with no findings of abuse or neglect.