

THE MEDICAL EVALUATION OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

VFPMS seminar 2024

The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

DAY 1:
Wednesday 24th July

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome and registration	Introduction
9:00 – 9:20	The medical evaluation of suspected child abuse. What can I expect to learn from this seminar?	
9:20 – 10:00	What do we know about child abuse and neglect?	
10:00 – 10:30	Practicing medicine safely. Confidentiality, information sharing and the importance of good record keeping. Consent for medical procedures. When am I meant to NOT simply ask the kid's Mum?	
10:30 – 10:50	Morning tea	The Victorian system
10:50 – 11:30	Looking forward, looking back: Sentinel injuries and clinical prediction tools. When can AI help?	
11:30 – 12:30	Roles and responsibilities: How the system works. What happens when "a report" is made?	
12:30 – 12:45	Q&A	
12:45 – 1:30	Lunch	Psychological harm
1:30 – 2:00	The neurobiology of child maltreatment	
2:00 – 2:30	The forensic investigation of emotional abuse	
2:30 – 2:55	Violence in the home (Family violence & child abuse)	
2:55 – 3:15	Afternoon tea	Neglect and FIIC
3:15 – 4:15	The forensic evaluation of child neglect	
4:15 – 5:00	Factitious and Induced illness / Medical Child Abuse	
FINISH DAY 1		

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DAY 2:

Thursday 25th July

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:00 – 8:30	Room open and sign in	Skin
8:30 – 9:30	Forensic interpretation of skin injury Skin Part 1: Bruises, the most common childhood injury Accidents, assault & mimics.	
9:30 – 10:00	Skin Part 2: Lacerations, abrasions and human bites.	
10:00 – 10:30	Skin Part 3: Burns, scalds and other thermal injuries	
10:30 – 10:50	Morning tea	Head injury
10:50 – 11:50	Abusive head trauma: Mechanisms, myths and mysteries.	
11:50 – 12:45	Head and spine injury: Radiological investigations & findings.	
12:45 – 1:30	Lunch	Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse
1:30 – 2:00	Child Sexual Abuse: Epidemiology, Trends, Laws, Harms & Long term consequences	
2:00 – 2:30	How to evaluate children’s sexualised behaviour	
2:30 – 3:00	Technology Facilitated Sexual Assault	
3:00 – 3:20	Afternoon tea	Genital findings
3:20 – 4:15	Genital examination when sexual abuse is suspected. When, where, why and how?	
4:15 – 4:45	Children’s genitals. What do paediatricians need to know?	
4:45 – 5:00	Sample collection from CSA victims: Principles and guidelines.	
FINISH DAY 2		

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DAY 3:

Friday 26th July

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
7:45 – 8:00	Room open and sign in	Fractures & internal injuries
8:00 – 9:00	Fracture mechanisms, patterns & estimates of age Investigation strategies	
9:00 – 9:30	Conditions associated with a propensity to fracture	
9:30 – 10:00	Internal, invisible but not insignificant: Internal injuries (+ strangulation)	
10:00 – 10:20	Morning tea	How to provide a medical opinion
10:20 – 10:45	How to write a useful medicolegal report. What to say, what not to say & how to word opinions.	
10:45 – 11:15	Tips for testifying	
11:15 – 11:30	Short Break	Practice session: My opinion is...
11:30 – 12:15	Quiz	
12:15 – 1:15	Ten top tips & ten tricky traps Practice wording opinions	
1:15 – 1:25	Reflections and Feedback	
FINISH DAY 3		