

The medical evaluation of suspected child abuse  
**VFPMS Seminar 2023**  
 Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

**Day 1: Wednesday, 23 August**

Time	Topic	Speaker
<b>8:30–9:00</b>	<b>Welcome and registration</b>	
	<b>Session 1. Introduction</b>	
9:00 – 9:30	The medical evaluation of suspected child abuse. An introduction with a focus on roles and responsibilities	Anne Smith
9:30 – 10:00	Confidentiality, information sharing and the importance of good record keeping.	Tanya Dargaville
10:00 – 10:30	Consent for medical procedures. What are the “special circumstances” requiring “special consent”?	Anne Smith
<b>10:30–10:50</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>	
	<b>The Victorian system</b>	
10:50 – 11:40	The role and function of Child Protection DFFH.	Kirsty-Lee Lomas
11:40 – 12:10	The role and function of the Child Protection Litigation Office and the Children’s Court of Victoria.	Sarah Masters
12:10 – 12:45	The role and function of Victoria Police SOCIT (sexual offenses and child abuse investigation team)	Lauren Lupi SOCIT
<b>12:45–1:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
	<b>Session 2. Skin</b>	
1:30 – 2:30	Skin Part 1: Bruises, the most common childhood injury. Can we determine causes? Accidents, assault & mimics.	Michelle Kaye
2:30 – 2:45	Skin Part 2: Lacerations, abrasions and human bites.	Jo Tully
2:45 - 3:15	Skin Part 3: Burns, scalds and other thermal injuries	Maryanne Lobo
<b>3:15–3:45</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	
3:45 – 4:15	Phrasing opinions regarding cause & timing of injury What to do and what not to do	Maryanne Lobo
4:15 - 5:00	QUIZ	Anne Smith
	<b>FINISH Day 1</b>	

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**Day 2: Thursday, 24 August**

Time	Topic	Speaker
<b>8:30–9:00</b>	<b>Room open and sign in</b>	
	<b>Session 3. Bones and brains</b>	
9:00 – 10:00	Fractures: Mechanism of injury, estimate of # age and investigation strategies. When should I worry about physical abuse?	Jo Tully
10:00 – 10:30	What conditions are associated with propensity to fracture?	Alyce Horstman
<b>10:30–10:50</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>	
10:50 – 11:50	Abusive head trauma: Mechanisms, myths and mysteries.	Jo Tully
11:50 – 12:20	Abusive head trauma: Radiological investigations.	Padma Rao
12:20 – 12:45	Looking forward and looking back: Sentinel injuries and clinical prediction tools.	Anne Smith
<b>12:45 – 1:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
	<b>Session 4. Sexual Abuse</b>	
1:30 – 2:00	Genital examination when sexual abuse is suspected. When, where, why and how?	Andrea Smith
2:00 – 3:00	Interpretation of genital examination findings. An update in a rapidly changing field.	Andrea Smith
<b>3:00–3:30</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	
3:30 – 3:40	Child Sexual Abuse: The scope of the problem in Australia	Tim Martin
3:40 - 4:00	Sexualised behaviour in children and adolescents.	Tim Martin
4:00 – 4:30	When, why and how to test children for STI Sample collection for DNA analysis: Principles and guidelines.	Alyce Horstman
4:30 – 5:00	Technology Facilitated Sexual Assault	Jo Tully
	<b>FINISH Day 2</b>	

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**Day 3: Friday, 25 August**

Time	Topic	Speaker
<b>8:30–9:00</b>	<b>Room open and sign in</b>	
	<b>Session 5. Psychological harm</b>	
9:00 – 9:30	Family violence & child maltreatment: Ecology of Child Abuse	Gemma Sinclair
9:30 – 10:00	The neurobiology of Child Maltreatment.	Geetika Badkar (prerecorded)
10:00 – 10:30	The forensic investigation of child neglect.	Katharine Blaze
10:30 – 11:00	The forensic evaluation & sequelae of emotional abuse	Katharine Blaze
<b>11:00 –11:20</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>	
11:20 – 12:00	Factitious and Induced illness / Medical Child Abuse.	Maryanne Lobo
12:00 – 12:15	Self-inflicted injury.	Gemma Sinclair
<b>12:45 – 1:35</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
	<b>Session 6. The medical witness in Court</b>	
1:35 – 2:10	Internal injuries (including strangulation).	Tim Martin
2:10 – 2:30	How to write a medicolegal report.	Jo Tully
2:30 – 3:00	Tips for testifying.	Anne Smith
<b>3:00–3:30</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	
3:30 – 4:00	In court: What should medical witnesses know and do?	Panel
4:00 – 5:00	Quiz (audience to practice <u>expressing opinions</u> ) & wrap up	Case scenarios to be discussed
	<b>FINISH Day 3</b>	