

VFPMS 2022: The medical evaluation of suspected child abuse. An introductory on-line course for clinicians.

Day 1: Wednesday, 24 August 2022

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00am	Session ONE commences Background theory and information	
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome and Housekeeping / Expectations	
9:10 – 9:30	Principles and Practice. What is “child abuse”?	
9:30 – 9:50	Breakout Room – Question 1	
9:50 – 10:00	Feedback	
10:00 – 10:30	Background: Policy, data & epidemiology of child abuse	
10:30 – 10:15	BREAK	
10:15 – 11:00	Legal aspects: Confidentiality, mandated reporting, criminal and child protection law	
11:00 – 11:10	Consent: Special considerations and circumstances	
11:10 – 11:20	Variation across jurisdictions (states/territories)	
11:20 – 12:30	The role of the child protection service and police	
12:30	Session ONE Finishes	
12:30 – 1:30	BREAK	
13:30	Session 2 Commences Skin Injury and mimics	
13:30-14:30	Bruises: The commonest inflicted childhood injury	
14:30-14:50	Breakout Room - Question 2	
14:50-15:00	Feedback	
15:00-15:20	BREAK	
15:20-16:10	Burns, scalds and other thermal injuries	
16:10-16:45	Mimics of skin injury (Poll)	
16:45-17:00	Reflection	
5:00pm	FINISH DAY 1	

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Day 2: Thursday, 25 August 2022

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00am	Session THREE commences Internal injuries (thoracic and abdominal) fractures	
9:00 – 9:45	Internal injuries (thoracic and abdominal) strangulation	
9:45 – 10:10	Common childhood fractures: Accidents and Abuse (Part 1)	
10:10 – 10:30	Breakout Room - Question 3	
10:30 – 10:40	Feedback	
10:40 – 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30	Forensic considerations: Childhood fractures (Part 2)	
11:30 – 11:50	Skin and bones: When and how can apps & CPG help?	
11:50 – 12:10	Sentinel injuries (and red flags)	
12:10 – 12:30	How we think about causes of injuries	
12:30	Session THREE finishes	
12:30 – 13:30	BREAK	
13:30	Session FOUR commences Cranio-cervical trauma, Neurobiol and FIIC	
13:30 – 14:30	Abusive head trauma: Findings and trauma mechanisms	
14:30 – 15:00	Radiological and pathological investigations to consider when suspecting head injuries in infants and toddlers	
15:00 – 15:20	Breakout Room - Question 4	
15:20 – 15:30	Feedback	
15:30 – 15:45	BREAK (15 minutes)	
15:45 – 16:00	Elements of paediatric toxicology	
16:00 – 16:30	Neurobiology of child maltreatment. ACEs	
16:30 – 17:00	Suspect factitious illness in children? What to do.	
5:00pm	FINISH DAY 2	

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Day 3: Friday, 26 August 2022

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00am	Session FIVE commences Child Sexual Abuse	
9:00 – 9:30	Epidemiology of Child Sexual Abuse: Who, when, how and why?	
9:30 – 10:00	Technology Facilitated Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse	
10:00 – 10:40	Genital Examination findings associated with CSA	
10:40 – 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30	Children’s sexualised behaviour	
11:30 – 11:50	Breakout Room - Question 5	
11:50 – 12:00	Feedback	
12:00 – 12:30	STI in children	
12:30	Session FIVE finishes	
12:30 – 13:30	BREAK	
13:30	Session SIX commences Neglect, emotional abuse, forensic opinions and court testimony	
13:30 – 14:00	Child Neglect	
14:00 – 14:40	Emotional maltreatment	
14:40 – 15:00	Breakout Room - Question 6	
15:00 – 15:10	Feedback	
15:10 – 15:30	BREAK	
15:30 – 15:45	How to formulate and express a forensic opinion	
15:45 – 16:00	The structure and function of Australian courts	
16:00 – 16:45	Tips for report writing Tips for testifying	
16:45 – 17:00	Reflections on key learnings from the course	
5:00pm	FINISH DAY 3	

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BREAKOUT ROOMS

Twice per day you will be allocated to breakout rooms to discuss questions with colleagues. You do not have to do anything to your computers when breakout sessions start – changes will happen automatically in the background. You will find yourself moving from the main presentation into a small group for discussion and back again into the main presentation when the time for group discussion has finished.

You will be asked to discuss the answers to one question each breakout session (each session is of 20 minutes duration). You will be allocated to a different group at the start of each day so that you mix with different individuals during the course.

You will be expected to nominate a spokesperson at the start of each breakout session. Spokespersons will provide feedback to the group (your answers) once breakout sessions have finished.

Please ensure that everyone in your group has an opportunity to contribute to discussions within your group (be inclusive and collaborative) and that the role of spokesperson is shared. Extroverts might be keen to go first, and this is fine, but please ensure that the introverts are not intimidated.

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9:30 – 9:45	Question 1. How does child abuse affect children?
14:30 – 14:50	Question 2. How should you examine markings on the skin that you think might be bruises? (Think about what you require in your facilities and how you go about your examination).

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10:10 – 10:30	Question 3. How would you investigate an infant of 8 months of age who presented to an Emergency Department of a large metropolitan hospital because earlier that day his father noticed a 6cm x 5cm soft swelling on the right parietal region of the infant's scalp. You are told that there was no known trauma to the infant's head. You find no obvious bruising of the scalp and the infant seems well in himself. (Think about information to be gathered, examination and tests)
14:40 – 15:00	Question 4. What are the possible fundoscopy findings that would make you suspicious that an infant has been shaken? Are there some findings that would make you especially suspicious of a shaking mechanism?

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11:30 – 11:50	Question 5. What are the consequences of child sexual abuse? Think about the physical and psychological effects on the child including a broad range of psychosocial consequences.
14:40 – 15:00	Question 6. What are the important things to get right when, in a case conference or in court, you convey an opinion about a child's injuries, safety and risk factors for child abuse and neglect? (Think too about what not to do)