



D5 Child Abuse: Physical Abuse

Diana K. Faugno, BSN, RN, Palomar Medical Centre, 555 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92025*

Attendees will be able to review healing injury photos of a case of child abuse and understand the court outcome, which will be discussed based on the prosecution's understanding of the findings.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating to the audience that not all anal injury is sexual abuse.

The police rescued a 4-year-old Spanish-speaking male. The child had multiple bruises, burns, and patterned injuries all over his body. He was taken to Children's Hospital, where he was evaluated for his injuries. It is noted he had a bruise around his penis. A Spanish speaking forensic interview obtained a history of a bar of soap being "shoved up my butt and it hurt."

A forensic sexual abuse examination was completed seven (7) days after his initial evaluation. There were multiple areas of healing noted all over his body with fading bruises, burns, and patterned injury. His eyelashes are at varying lengths. His anus showed a healing laceration at 6 o'clock. This injury was consistent with the time frame and history stated.

Both the mother and significant other were arrested and placed in jail. The court case occurred eight (8) months later with the defense accepting a plea bargain of a required eight (8) years served before parole for both of them.

Key Point: The intent of shoving the soap bar into the anus was not sexual.

Child Abuse, Physical Abuse, Anal Injury