



## Pathology Biology Section – 2011

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### **G12 Examination of Sexually Abused Children: Presentation of the First Danish Center for the Investigation and Care of Abused Children**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how the first Danish Child Protection Center was organized, and the importance of the participation of the forensic department and the forensic pathologist.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing the importance of the involvement of the forensic pathologist in the investigation of child sexual abuse.

The prevalence of sexual abuse of children in the Nordic countries is unknown, but has been estimated to be around 5%. Very few cases of sexual abuse are reported to the police. The police may request a medical examination to document or verify the child's testimony.

Until now, the child and the child's family have had to go to the police station to give a videotaped interview to the police, go to a medical or a forensic doctor with examination rooms located elsewhere, followed by pediatric evaluation and treatment and psychosocial follow-up at yet another place.

In November 2007, the first Danish centre for the protection of abused children was established at Aarhus University Hospital, Skejby.

The Center, which receives all kinds of child abuse cases, is located in a building neighboring the Department of Forensic Medicine, Aarhus, and headed by a steering group with representatives from the Pediatric Department, the police, and the Department of Forensic Medicine; the Center is managed by a pediatric consultant.

Videotaped interviews by the police are performed at the centre as well as the forensic medical examination, pediatric and psychosocial evaluation and follow-up.

Experience and perspectives from the first Danish child protection centre for the forensic community will be presented.

**Sexual Abuse, Child Protection Center, Forensic Pathology**