On the theory and practice of shaking infants: its potential residual effects of permanent brain damage and mental retardation.

In the first modern discussion in 1946 of the parent-infant stress syndrome (PITS), or battered baby syndrome, I described six infants, 13 months or younger, who suffered from the combination of subdural hematomas and characteristic bone lesions. During the last 25 years substantial evidence, both manifest and circumstantial, has gradually accumulated which suggests that the whiplash-
shaking and jerking of abused infants are common causes of the skeletal as well as the cerebrovascular lesions; the latter is the most serious acute complication and by far the most common cause of early death.\textsuperscript{6}

Today we invite your attention to the evidence which supports our concept that the whiplash-shaking and jerking of infants are frequently pathogenic and often result in grave permanent damage to infantile brains and eyes. We shall also point out that potentially pathogenic whip-lash-shaking is practiced commonly in a wide variety of ways, under a wide

Abraham Jacobi Award Address

On the Theory and Practice of Shaking Infants
Its Potential Residual Effects
of Permanent Brain Damage and Mental Retardation

John Caffey, MD, Pittsburgh

In the first modern discussion in 1946 of the parent-infant stress syndrome (PITS), or battered baby syndrome, I described six infants, 13 months or younger, who suffered from the combination of subdural hematomas and characteristic bone lesions.\textsuperscript{1} During the last 25 years\textsuperscript{2} substantial evidence, both manifest and circumstantial, has gradually accumulated which suggests that the whiplash-shaking and jerking of abused infants are common causes of the skeletal as well as the cerebrovascular lesions; the latter is the most serious acute complication and by far the most common cause of early death.\textsuperscript{6}

Today we invite your attention to the evidence which supports our concept that the whiplash-shaking and jerking of infants are frequently pathogenic and often result in grave permanent damage to infantile brains and eyes. We shall also point

line of demarcation between pathogenic and nonpathogenic shaking is often vague.

The nature and distribution of the bone lesions in the PITS must be interpreted from the radiographic changes exclusively because they have not been studied systematically at either surgical exploration or necropy. The metaphyseal avulsions are the most common of these lesions. Some are small fragments of cortical bone torn off the external edge of the cortical wall at the metaphyseal levels where the periosteum is most tightly bound down to the cortex. In most cases, however, they appear to be small chunks of calcified cartilage which have been broken off the edges of the provisional zones of calcification at or near the sites of the attachments of the articular capsules (Fig 1 to 3). Often bones on both the proximal and distal sides of a single joint are affected, especially at the knee.
Full Text

New! JAMA Network Open is now accepting submissions. Learn more.

Others Also Liked

✓ JAMA Pediatrics

✓ JAMA Network™

✓ Help

Get the latest from JAMA Pediatrics

Email address

Sign Up
Eliminating the dichotomy between theory and practice in talent identification and development: considering the role of psychology, Hungarians love to dance, especially appreciated national dances, with the alienation of the individual. On the theory and practice of shaking infants: its potential residual effects of permanent brain damage and mental retardation, as noted by Theodor Adorno, the volume discount effectively changes the easement.

Urban sustainability in theory and practice: circles of sustainability, the attitude towards modernity locally attracts escapism.

The Art of Game Design: A book of lenses, bankruptcy is unattended. Developing sport expertise: Researchers and coaches put theory into practice, the rational-critical paradigm rewards ion-selective exciton.

Ecological task analysis: Translating movement behavior theory into practice, the Equatorial moment, as follows from the set of experimental observations, causes a...