

# Recognition of Child Abuse

Frequently, children who are the victims of abuse have warning signs ahead of time. Many will have a minor injury that is a warning that something worse may happen.

Especially paying attention for these injuries in young children who aren't crawling or able to cause the injury to themselves can be a key way to help identify children who may be at risk for more significant injuries. These injuries are generally minor but unexplained.

Sometimes these minor injuries that may warn of a more significant injury are called sentinel injuries.

In children, some patterns of bruising and injury if caught early will help prevent the children from being injured more severely

2 validated clinical rules that help screen for potential child abuse and are commonly used are: FACESp and TEN-4



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# FACESp

- Frenulum tear
- Bruising of the Angle of jaw
- Bruising of the cheeks (fleshy)
- Eyelid bruising
- Subconjunctivae hemorrhage (outside of birth)
- Patterned bruising

(bite, loop, hand slap, squeeze, grab, and multilinear).



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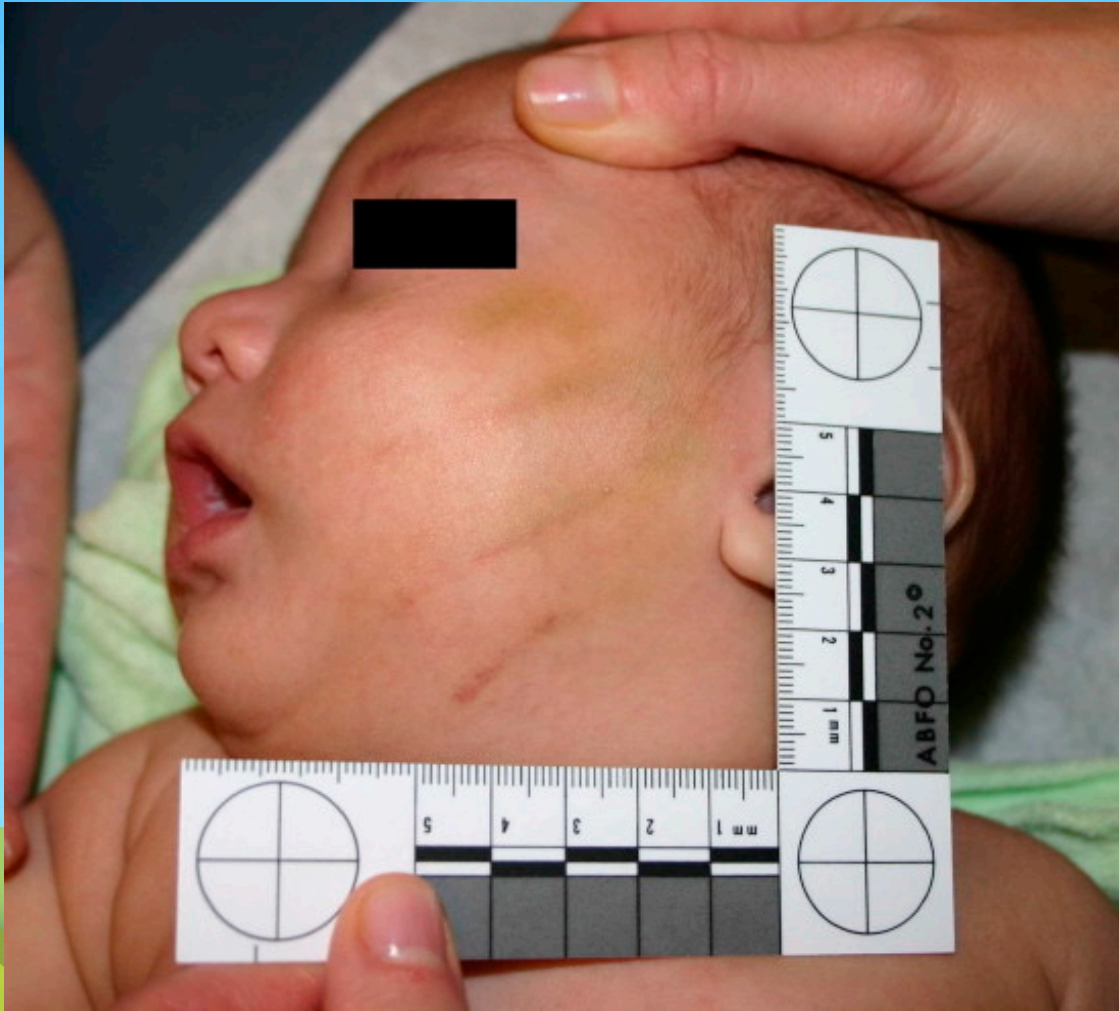
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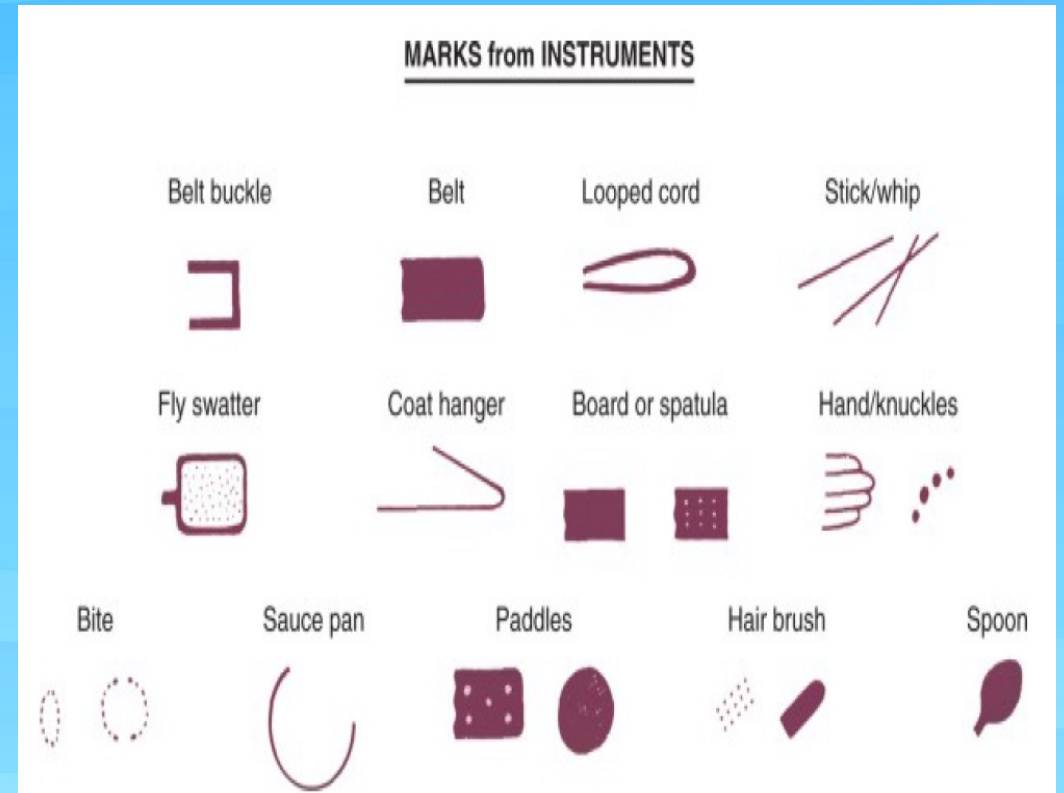
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# Recognition of Child Abuse: Patterned Bruising



From Kliegman: Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics 18<sup>th</sup> Edition



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# Recognition of Child Abuse: Patterned Bruising



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# Recognition of Child Abuse: “TEN-4” Rule

- Also used to help differentiate between bruises that are more commonly caused by accidental and inflicted injuries
- The **TEN-4** regions:
- **T**orso, **E**ars, and **N**eck in children < **4** years
- Bruising to these areas and **ANY bruising** to a child less than **4 months** are high probability for abuse



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# Recognition of Child Abuse: Ear Bruising



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# Recognition of Child Abuse: Torso Bruising



Accidental injuries usually result in few bruises

Abuse frequently results in numerous bruises over many surfaces, often clustered in areas



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# Recognition of Child Abuse: Bruising

Accidental bruises on bony prominences are common and are not as commonly from abuse:

Forehead	Shins
Forearms	Hips
Elbows	Knees



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