

Child Abuse Medical Evaluation: Myth Versus Reality

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Dr. David Bernard completed residency in Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. He also completed his fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. He is the Medical Director for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program at Children's of Alabama in Birmingham, AL. He is an attending physician in the pediatric emergency department at Children's Hospital and evaluates patients at the CHIPS Center of Children's Hospital. The majority of his educational, administrative and outreach work is in the field of Child Abuse Pediatrics. He is board certified in General Pediatrics, Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Child Abuse Pediatrics.

Objectives

1. Understand the importance of the medical exam as part of the healing process for children and families.
2. Discuss the essential elements of a properly performed medical examination.
3. Explore common presentations of child abuse and when to suspect abuse.
4. Discuss the interface between the medical and nonmedical provider when working with children suspected to have been abused.
5. Understand how the medical examination fits within the overall investigative process.

This presentation will address some of the common mythologies associated with child abuse for the purpose of educating the audience regarding evaluation findings in children. By exploring the mythologies of child abuse, the nonmedical professional who encounters the abused child should develop a clearer understanding of the interface with the medical community, the limitations of the medical examination, and the requisite medical resources needed to properly care for children who are suspected to have been abused.

