

Bruising in Pre-mobile babies

- Bruising is the most common presenting feature in physical abuse in children.
- The younger the child the higher the risk that the bruising is non- accidental, especially where the child is under the age of 6 months.
- Bruising in any child 'not independently mobile' should prompt suspicion of maltreatment
- Bruising in any pre mobile baby should prompt an immediate referral to Social Care, who will arrange an urgent medical examination by a senior paediatrician.

Definitions

- **Pre-mobile baby:** A baby who is not yet crawling, bottom shuffling, pulling to stand, cruising or walking independently. This includes all babies under the age of six months
- **Bruising:** Extravasation of blood in the soft tissues, producing a temporary, non-blanching discolouration of skin however faint or small with or without other skin abrasions or marks. Colouring may vary from yellow through green to brown or purple. This includes petechiae, which are red or purple non- blanching spots, less than two millimetres in diameter and often in clusters.

The presence of any bruising in pre-mobile babies of any size, in any site, should initiate a detailed examination and inquiry into its explanation, origin, characteristics and history. The child should then be referred to Children's Social Care.

Children's social care contact numbers:

- Cambridgeshire children: 0345 045 5203
Or referralcentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
- Peterborough children: 01733 864180
- Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team (EDT): (01733) 234724

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