Abusive Head Trauma (AAPOS Workshop 2011)

Homicide is the leading cause of injury and death in infancy, and half of infant homicides occur during the first four months of life (1,2). The majority of these deaths are caused by abusive head trauma, which results from violent, non-accidental shaking, blunt impact to the head, or both. Historically, the injuries resulting from repetitive unrestrained head and neck movements from shaking were termed the “whiplash shaken infant syndrome” which was commonly referred to as the “Shaken Baby syndrome”(3) and more recently Abusive Head Trauma,. Those perpetrators who have confessed support the prominence of repetitive violent shaking as the key element in generation of Abusive Head Trauma. Clinical findings in affected infants include subdural hemorrhage, hypoxic-ischemic brain injury, retinal hemorrhages, skeletal injuries, and cutaneous or other injuries.

References:


5) Levin, A. Retinal Hemorrhage in Abusive Head Trauma http://www.pediatrics.org Pediatrics published online Oct 4, 2010; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2010-1220


