

Shaken Baby Syndrome

This is a condition caused by a care giver shaking a child causing irreparable brain damage.

Watch the video to learn more about what can happen - module 14(b1):

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiCywbfD8j8



What is shaken baby syndrome?

Shaken baby syndrome destroys a child's brain cells and prevents his or her brain from getting enough oxygen.

Shaken baby syndrome is a form of child abuse that can result in permanent brain damage or death.

Why does happen?

Babies have weak neck muscles and often struggle to support their heavy heads. If a baby is forcefully shaken, their fragile brain moves back and forth inside the skull.

This causes bruising, swelling and bleeding.

Shaken baby syndrome

Symptoms:

Shaken baby syndrome symptoms and signs include:

- Extreme fussiness or irritability
- Difficulty staying awake
- Breathing problems
- Poor eating
- Vomiting
- Pale or blue coloured skin
- Seizures
- Paralysis
- Coma



You may not see any signs of physical injury to the child's outer body. Sometimes, the face is bruised. Injuries that may not be immediately seen include bleeding in the brain and eyes, spinal cord damage, and fractures of the ribs, skull, legs and other bones.

Many children with shaken baby syndrome show signs and symptoms of prior child abuse. In mild cases of shaken baby syndrome, a child may appear normal after being shaken but over time they may develop health or behavioural problems.

Longer term:

Survivors of shaken baby syndrome may require lifelong medical care for conditions such as:

- Partial or total blindness
- Developmental delays
- Learning problems or behaviour issues
- Learning difficulties
- Seizure disorders
- Cerebral palsy

For more information, visit:

www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/shaken-baby-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20366619