

In the infant who presents with unexplained fractures some child abuse pediatricians (CAP) will diagnose child abuse based on alleged "pathognomonic" X-ray findings of child abuse. However, this is NOT true - an X-ray cannot reveal intent. Because these X-ray findings trump all other findings in such a case, CAP deny the often given history of the parents that the parents have no idea of how these fractures occurred. This denial of the history by CAP violates one of the basic tenets in the practice of medicine - the history is the most likely place that the diagnosis will be found. What has not been appreciated in most of these cases is that the bones are intrinsically weak and can fracture with the forces of routine handling. In my experience most of these parents have NOT abused their infant. The CAP has missed the diagnosis of a medical explanation for the fractures.

I describe my experience in the attached article.

-Marvin Miller