

Infantile acute subdural hematoma etiology

Acute subdural hematoma in **infants** is distinct from that occurring in older **children** or **adults** because of differences in mechanism, injury thresholds, and the frequency with which the question of nonaccidental injury is encountered.

When trauma occur the motor vehicle accidents are the most frequent.

In the series of Loh et al. the most common cause of injury was **shaken baby syndrome** ¹⁾.

The accuracy of the history obtained from the caregivers of infants may be low in severe infantile head trauma. Therefore, medical professionals should treat the mechanism of injury obtained from caregivers as secondary information and investigate for possible **abusive head trauma** (AHT) in cases with inconsistencies between the history that was taken and the severity of the injury observed ²⁾.

At least in **Japanese children**, an **infantile acute subdural hematoma** was frequently observed not only in nonaccidental but also in accidental injuries. In infants with **head trauma**, age, the presence of **retinal hemorrhage**, and the presence of **seizures** should be considered when determining whether they were abused. **Subdural hematoma** is also a powerful finding to detect abuse, but care should be taken because, in some ethnic groups, such as the **Japanese**, there are many accidental cases ³⁾.

Chronic subdural effusions in infancy may arise from trauma, from various types of meningitis, from severe dehydration, or "idiopathically" ⁴⁾.

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Loh JK, Lin CL, Kwan AL, Howng SL. Acute subdural hematoma in infancy. Surg Neurol. 2002 Sep-Oct;58(3-4):218-24. PubMed PMID: 12480224.

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Amagasa S, Matsui H, Tsuji S, Moriya T, Kinoshita K. Accuracy of the history of injury obtained from the caregiver in infantile head trauma. Am J Emerg Med. 2016 Sep;34(9):1863-7. doi: 10.1016/j.ajem.2016.06.085. PubMed PMID: 27422215.

³⁾

Akutsu N, Nonaka M, Narisawa A, Kato M, Harada A, Park YS. Infantile subdural hematoma in Japan: A multicenter, retrospective study by the J-HITs (Japanese head injury of infants and toddlers study) group. PLoS One. 2022 Feb 25;17(2):e0264396. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0264396. PMID: 35213611.

⁴⁾

Amacher AL, Li KT. Indirect trauma as a cause of acute infantile subdural hematomas. Can Med Assoc J. 1973 Jun 23;108(12):1530. PubMed PMID: 4714878; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1941542.

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