Survey on Awareness of Violence Against Children and the Use of the Guide “Violence Against Children and Young People” by Paediatricians in Brandenburg

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Brandenburg guide “Violence Against Children and Young People”

Objectives

• Help doctors detect violence against children as early as possible
• Improve interdisciplinary case management
• Provide a list of institutions offering advice on psychosocial problems
Medical Documentation

(Verdacht auf) Kindesmisshandlung / Vernachlässigung
(bei Verdacht auf sexuellen Missbrauch benutzen Sie bitte den Dokumentationsbogen 2)

Child's particulars

| Familienname | | (Datum) |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Vorname      |                 |
| Geburtsdatum |                 |
| Anschrift    |                 |
|              | (Stempel)       |

Case history

(Anlass der Vorstellung, Zeit, Hergang, Art der Gewalt, Informationsquelle)

Results of the examination

Allgemeinzustand

(Große, Gewicht, Ernährungszustand, Pflegezustand, Entwicklung, Bekleidung)

Documentation of the examination

Total body scheme

Genital- / Analregion
Questions on the family situation

Who belongs to the family?

Ist jemand weggegangen (Todesfall, Partnerverlust, Trennung)? Ist jemand neu hinzugekommen (Geschwister, neuer Partner)?

Wen gibt es sonst noch an Angehörigen?

How is life going?

We kommen die Eltern / Bezugspersonen mit dem Kind / den Kindern zurecht? Gibt es Unterschiede in der Beziehung Mutter-Kind / Vater-Kind?

Gibt es Konfliktstoffe (Kind, Alkohol, Drogen, Schulden, Arbeitslosigkeit etc.)?

Does the child have problems at school?

Wie ist die Wohnsituation?

Gibt es Spielsachen für das Kind? Hat es ein eigenes Bett?

Tabelle 2
Injuries caused by violence

- Oberkopf, Auge
- Wangen
- Mundschleimhaut
- Streckseiten der Unterarme und Hände
- Rücken und Gesäß

Fall injuries

- Stirn, Nase, Kinn
- Hinterkopf
- Ellenbogen
- Handballen
- Fingerknöchel
- Knie
- Schienenbeine
Target group studied

- 285 paediatricians/child and youth psychiatrists (practising in hospitals and privately)
- Response: 92 out of 285 (33%)

Structured questionnaire on

- Estimated number of proven and suspected cases of violence against children
- Usefulness of the information provided
- Cooperation with psychosocial institutions
- Support requirement
Percentage of paediatricians reporting violence against children (N=92)

- At least 1 child seen: 89.1%
- No child seen: 3.3%
- Question not answered: 7.6%
Estimated number of proven and suspected cases of violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Abuse</th>
<th>Proven cases n=904</th>
<th>Suspected cases n=945</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical neglect</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional abuse</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment of the guide’s design, clarity and theoretical content (n=49)

- **Theoretical part / epidemiology**
  - Very good: 12.2%
  - Good: 79.6%
  - Satisfactory: 8.2%
  - Poor: 0%
  - Very poor: 0%
  - No answer: 0%

- **Clarity and comprehensibility**
  - Very good: 22.5%
  - Good: 71.4%
  - Satisfactory: 6.1%
  - Poor: 0%
  - Very poor: 0%
  - No answer: 0%

- **Format and presentation**
  - Very good: 22.4%
  - Good: 69.4%
  - Satisfactory: 8.2%
  - Poor: 0%
  - Very poor: 0%
  - No answer: 0%
Assessment of the guide’s recommendations (n=49)

Recommendations for cooperation
- Very good: 12.2%
- Good: 61.1%
- Satisfactory: 20.4%
- Poor: 2.1%
- Very poor: 2.1%
- No answer: 6.1%

Recommendations for practice
- Very good: 12.2%
- Good: 57.2%
- Satisfactory: 24.5%
- Poor: 2.1%
- Very poor: 6.1%
- No answer: 6.1%

Recommendations for diagnostics
- Very good: 16.3%
- Good: 63.3%
- Satisfactory: 14.3%
- Poor: 2.1%
- Very poor: 6.1%
- No answer: 6.1%
How useful are the various sections of the guide in practice? (n = 49)

Cooperation
- Very good: 8.2%
- Good: 71.4%
- Not so good: 10.2%
- No answer: 10.2%

Medical diagnosis part
- Very good: 18.4%
- Good: 65.3%
- Not so good: 12.2%
- No answer: 4.1%

Case management
- Very good: 16.3%
- Good: 59.2%
- Not so good: 16.3%
- No answer: 8.2%
Assessment of cooperation (n = 49)

- Are you regularly working together with other institutions?
  - Yes: 87.0%
  - No: 7.6%
  - No answer: 5.4%

- Is local psychosocial provision satisfactory?
  - Yes: 58.7%
  - No: 30.4%
  - No answer: 10.9%

- Are you satisfied with local cooperation?
  - Yes: 59.8%
  - No: 20.7%
  - No answer: 19.6%
Conclusions

Paediatricians in Brandenburg
- Report violence against children, others don’t
- Urgently require knowledge about and support from social services

Brandenburg
- Needs a far better networking of paediatricians and psycho-social services
- Has launched a children’s health programme “Growing up Healthy in Brandenburg” to tackle the need for violence prevention