

SUNY UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
& UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Syracuse, New York

Clinical Update
January 2009

On High Alert for Child Abuse

Since a family's financial stress can raise the risk of child abuse, Upstate's Ann Botash MD advises physicians to be even more watchful – and knowledgeable – about handling suspected cases of abuse.

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Upstate Adds TomoTherapy®

University Hospital is the only Central New York location to offer radiation therapy that revolves – literally – around cancer patients.

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In Hard Times, Higher Risk of Child Abuse

- Medical professionals placed on high alert
- Medical support services also at risk

financial stress – known to increase the risk of child abuse – is also battering a New York State program designed to improve medical response to suspected abuse. The Child Abuse Medical Provider Program (CHAMP) has lost almost all state funding, due to shortfalls in New York’s revenues.

This means that medical providers must be even more attentive – and proactive – in situations that suggest child abuse, according to Ann Botash MD, CHAMP founder/director and professor of pediatrics at SUNY Upstate. “Physicians have a critical role in recognizing, treating and advocating for child abuse victims. Children routinely see their doctors during the years when they are most at risk for abuse.”

CHAMP’s mission is to improve the New York State medical response to suspected child abuse by improving the examination, treatment, documentation, community referral and management of suspected child abuse cases.

“We cannot afford to slip behind on the momentum that CHAMP has created toward the ultimate goal of a skilled medical exam for every child,” says Dr. Botash. “Medical training in handling suspicion of sexual abuse

is especially urgent. As a pediatrician who has examined abused children for the past 20 years, I can assure you that the contribution of an expert medical provider to the investigation can make or break a case.



Epidemic

“Child abuse is an epidemic,” Dr. Botash warns. In 2006 alone, 209,425 children were reported abused, according to New York State Child Protective Services data. “Child abuse is more common than lead poisoning or deaths from car accidents and other perils that have funded medical resources and efforts.

Medical Exam: Essential Component

“When abuse is suspected, every child deserves a skilled medical exam,” says Dr. Botash. “While we do not have

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“Child abuse is more common than lead poisoning or deaths from car accidents.”

enough experts to provide every examination – and our lack of funding hurts New York’s children – the CHAMP program continues its work. Our resources remain available to physicians and nurses through CHAMP’s websites, which attract more than 20,000 visitors a month.”

Internet Resources

The online resources include free coursework, practice recommendations and access to Dr. Botash’s web-based book, *ChildAbuseMD.com*.

“Through the websites, we will continue to improve the medical recognition of abuse and the primary medical provider’s response to it,” says Dr. Botash. “When a primary care or emergency medicine professional has questions about abuse or maltreatment, we will connect them with our child abuse experts.”

The websites also offer a 12 CME-credit course in Evaluating Child Sexual Abuse, as well as opportunities to train or observe at the one of 11 New York State’s CHAMP Centers of Excellence.



**ChildAbuseMD.com
CHAMPprogram.com**





CHAMP's Top Ten Reasons

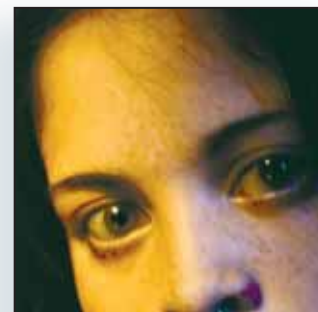
for a skilled medical evaluation of children and adolescents suspected of being sexually abused.

1. To reassure the child and family that the child is healthy.
2. To assess the medical needs of the child and to treat injuries, infections and/or provide prophylaxis.
3. To assess safety and intervene to prevent further abuse.
4. To assess and address emotional, social, mental health, and developmental needs of the children and family and to provide crisis intervention.
5. To capture spontaneous disclosures.
6. To decrease the likelihood of the child's recantation by enhancing parental support and awareness.
7. To refer for medical, mental health or social issues.
8. To potentially increase the likelihood of perpetrator confession.
9. To document evaluation findings.
10. To collect forensic evidence.

“Children routinely see their doctors during the years when they are most at risk for abuse.”

What Does CHAMP Do?

- Increase the number of health care providers trained in child sexual abuse evaluation.
- Develop child abuse coursework and reference materials for medical professionals.
- Maintain Centers of Excellence.
- Provide documentation of best practices.
- Promote regional multidisciplinary team collaboration and coordination. CHAMP works through a network of New York State professionals, comprised of child abuse experts who serve as mentors and faculty, and CHAMP-trained providers, who are physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who have been trained to evaluate cases of suspected child sexual abuse.



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in Memory of

While CHAMP was founded by Dr. Botash in 1997, the program received its first funding from New York State in 2006, following the widely publicized death of Nixmary Brown, who was sexually abused, starved and murdered by her stepfather in Brooklyn.

Central New York's awareness of child abuse was recently heightened, when the death of 11-year-old Erin Maxwell of Palermo (Oswego County) was labeled a suspected homicide. Her 26-year-old stepbrother was charged in her death, and Erin's mother and stepfather were charged with child neglect.

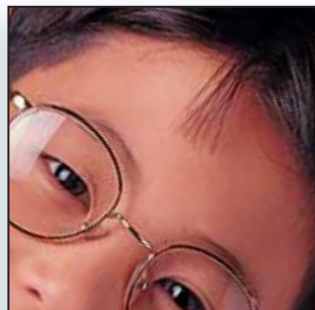
"Erin's death is another tragic reminder of the imperative need for skilled and integrated services to detect and prevent child abuse," says Dr. Botash.

A few months after Erin Maxwell's death, Central New York was shocked by the beating death of 20-month-old Imani Jennings of Syracuse. Charges have been filed against her mother's 15-year-old boyfriend, as well as her 18-year-old mother.



Who qualifies as a child abuse expert?

Although all physicians are mandated to report their suspicions of child abuse, not all physicians are experts in child abuse.

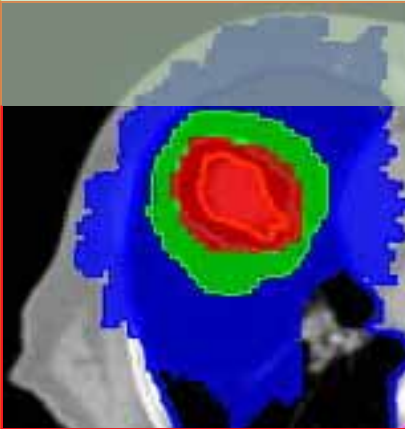


In fact, child abuse is only now becoming recognized as a specialty within pediatrics. The American Board of Pediatrics will soon offer certificates in Child Abuse Pediatrics to qualified pediatricians. Information about the eligibility criteria can be found on the American Board of Pediatrics website: <https://www.abp.org>

“Physicians have a critical role in recognizing, treating and advocating for child abuse victims.”

IN HEALTH CARE

MD Direct: 800-544-1605: University Hospital's Physician-To-Physician Service



Exactly what you need. Exactly where you need it.

The TomoTherapy® difference in radiation treatment

The Department of Radiation Oncology at SUNY Upstate Medical University/University Hospital is pleased to announce the introduction of a radiation therapy system that revolves – literally – around the patient.

The system refines radiation delivery to patients with cancer by customizing the daily treatments according to individual anatomy.

By integrating daily CT imaging and a 360-degree delivery pattern, the TomoTherapy® Hi-Art® treatment system addresses the two major challenges to radiation delivery:

- How can doctors be certain the radiation beam is following its planned trajectory toward the tumor?
- How can harm to healthy surrounding tissue be minimized?



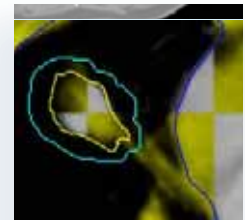
Refined Daily

The Hi-Art treatment system resembles a CT scanner, because it is a CT scanner. It captures 3D images of every patient, every day, enabling clinicians to check the size, shape and location of tumors before each treatment.

These daily images can also be used to analyze – and to modify, if necessary – the patient's treatment, at any point during the treatment course.



Jeffrey Bogart MD, Professor and Chair, Radiation Oncology



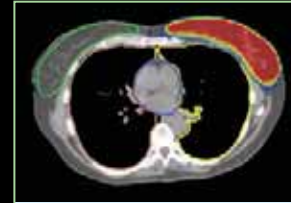
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A6 MD Direct: 800-544-1605: University Hospital's Physician-To-Physician Service

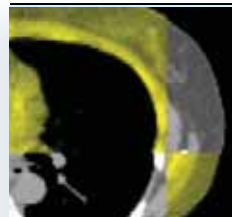


TomoTherapy® Applications

- Early-stage lung cancer
- Breast cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Head and neck cancer

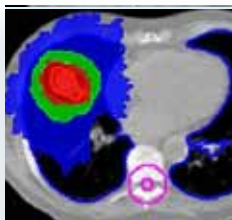


TomoTherapy's Hi-Art software calculates the appropriate pattern, position and intensity of the radiation beams to be delivered, based on the doctor's prescribed dose.



Highly Conformal

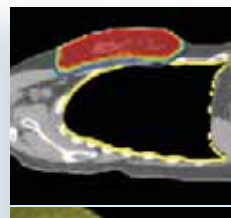
On each day of treatment, the TomoTherapy system rescans the patient for up-to-the-minute tumor placement. The doctors use this information to adjust the treatment plan, if necessary. Then the patient passes through the machine again, as the Hi-Art system delivers the daily treatment, typically through the 360-degree delivery of tens of thousands of beamlets (a single beam of radiation divided into many smaller beamlets).



TomoTherapy treatments are painless – the experience is similar to having a CT scan or x-ray taken. A typical course of treatment involves Monday through Friday sessions of about 20 minutes each.

Only at Upstate

In the past decade, the TomoTherapy system has been embraced by more than 100 cancer centers worldwide. In Central New York, only University Hospital offers the clinically proven* TomoTherapy system.



For more information, please call MD Direct at 800-544-1605. ●

*See [http://www.tomotherapy.com/clinician/publications/Clinical impact?](http://www.tomotherapy.com/clinician/publications/Clinical%20impact?)