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# Shaken Baby Syndrome

Investigating the Abusive Head Trauma Controversy

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Since the early 2000s, a growing body of scientific studies in neuropathology, neurology, neurosurgery, biomechanics, statistics, criminology and psychology has cast doubt on the forensic reliability of medical determinations of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS), more recently termed Abusive Head Trauma (AHT). Studies have increasingly documented that accidental short falls and a wide range of medical conditions, can cause the same symptoms and findings associated with this syndrome. Nevertheless, inaccurate diagnoses, unrealistic confidence expression, and wrongful convictions continue to this day. Bringing together contributions from a multidisciplinary expert panel of 32 professionals across 8 countries in 16 different specialties, this landmark book tackles the highly controversial topic of SBS, which lies at the intersection of medicine, science, and law. With comprehensive coverage across multiple disciplines, it explains the scientific evidence challenging SBS and advances efforts to evaluate how deaths and serious brain injuries in infants should be analysed and investigated.

Preface; Part I. Prolog: 1. Maintaining the orthodoxy and silencing dissent; 2. The history of SBS; Part II. Medicine: 3. The neuropathology of SBS or retinodural haemorrhage of infancy; 4. The importance of the correlation between radiology and pathology in SBS; 5. SBS, AHT – or just a type of hydrocephalus?; 6. SBS or benign external hydrocephalus – how is AHT depicted in the scientific literature?; 7. Are some cases of sudden infant death syndrome incorrectly diagnosed as SBS?; 8. AHT: the importance of predisposing factors; 9. How I became a SBS skeptic paediatrician; Part III. Science: 10. The Swedish systematic literature review on suspected traumatic shaking (SBS) and its aftermath; 11. Interrogation and the infanticide suspect: mechanisms of vulnerability to false confession; 12. Can confession substitute for science in SBS/AHT?; 13. Cognitive bias in medicolegal judgments; 14. Biomechanical forensic analysis of shaking and short fall head injury mechanisms in infants and young children; 15. When lack of information leads to apparent paradoxes and wrong conclusions: analysis of a seminal article on short falls; 16. Epidemiology of findings claimed to be highly specific for SBS/AHT, a prerequisite to improve diagnosis of child abuse; 17. SBS: exploring concerns about the 'triad' diagnosis and its statistical validation using a causal Bayesian network; Part IV. Law: 18. Mandatory reporting of child maltreatment; 19. SBS/AHT opinion evidence in US Courts; 20. Undoing wrongful convictions: exonerating the innocent in SBS/AHT cases; Part V. International: 21. Ptolemy rather than Copernicus – the state of SBS in the British legal system; 22. SBS in; 23. Sweden and SBS/AHT; 24. SBS/AHT in Japan; 25. SBS in Australia; 26. SBS around the world; Part VI. Postface: 27. Conclusion.

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