

## **Systematic medical investigation into suspicion of infant abuse using Checklist.**

Johanna Röntfors

In every year comes over 50 000 children to Queen Silvia Children's Hospital in Göteborg. Over The last few years, we've had about 5- 10 infants per year who have had symptoms or damage, where we suspected abuse. In these cases it's been very important to do a very meticulous medical investigation. During presentation, I will describe using cases how we have worked with our checklist, to enhance procedure and ensure we do the right thing at right time.

This checklist developed following discussions between experienced specialists and professionals from non-health authorities that also are involved and rely on the medical investigation to support their own investigations.

The checklist consists of a flow chart from day one with examinations and laboratory samples have to be done following a particular order. After day 14, most of the medical investigation is finished. For example included in the flow chart, we have to contact authorities such as the police and the social services at a particular time. Then we have medical conference with every specialist who have been involved, inviting the coroner. In this conference we discuss and try to find a clarity to the cause of the child's symptoms and injuries. The flowchart emphasises multi-agency work with continuous contact with the persons from other authorities during the investigation of the child.

This systematic medical investigation has been spread and is now part of the routine in several hospitals in Sweden.

I want to illustrate this with a case regarding a child investigated according to the checklist resulting in conviction for assault.