Editorial

Unfortunately, issues of child abuse and neglect commonly and directly affect the pediatric neurosurgeon. We have chosen to present two papers regarding this topic coupled to an Invited Comment as a forum of discussion for some aspects of this problem¹. There remain many points of contention in the published literature on this topic, some of which are clearly present in the two abuse-related articles published in this issue. These points are brought out in the associated Comment and that commentary needs to be considered when evaluating the data presented in those papers – especially as these data might apply to legal proceedings associated with the diagnosis of child abuse. It is our hope to raise awareness of the controversies in the diagnosis of non-accidental neural trauma and to clearly define the importance of the pediatric neurosurgeon in that diagnostic process.

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¹ Trenchs V, et al.: Subdural haematomas and physical abuse in the first two years of life. *Pediatr Neurosurg* 2007;43:352–357.

Gardner HB: A witnessed short fall mimicking presumed shaken baby syndrome (inflicted childhood neurotrauma). *Pediatr Neurosurg* 2007;43:433–435.

Glick JC, Staley K: Inflicted traumatic brain injury: Advances in evaluation and collaborative diagnosis. *Pediatr Neurosurg* 2007;43:436–441.