THE INFLUENCE OF CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ON THE INTERPRETATION OF RADIOGRAPHS

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Introduction

- The "diagnose" child abuse is based on different information sources.
- The provided information can potentially influence the interpretations of the multidisciplinary team.

Aim: Determine the influence of contextual information on our conclusions on non-accidental trauma of a radiograph of a fracture?

Methods

Design
9 clinical vignettes.
Vignette
- Radiograph of a femur fracture.
- Randomly assigned clinical history.
- Two possible histories (non-abuse or abuse context).

"The fracture on this radiographic image is …	score
very much less probable	-2
less probable	-1
approximately equally probable [as]	0
more probable	1
very much more probable	2

… if child abuse was the cause, than if accidental trauma was the cause of the fracture."

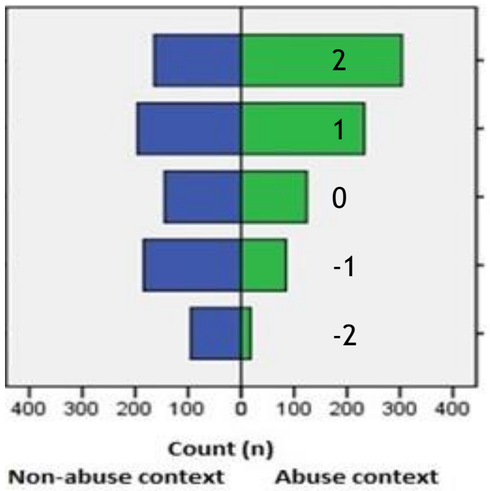
Doctors are subconsciously biased by contextual information when interpreting radiographs, regardless of specialty or amount of work experience.

Results

Non-abuse context mean **0,19** (95%CI 0,10 – 0,28)

versus $p < 0.001$

Abuse context mean **0,94** (95%CI 0,86 – 1,02)



References
1 Paine et al, Child Abuse & Neglect, 2018
2 Lindberg et al, J Pediatr, 2014