

The Bruised Baby

(Based on Muecke 1983, Yeatman et al. 1976, and Yeatman and Van Dang 1980.)

The Nguyen family had been bubbling with excitement and pleasure the last time they had visited the clinic. They were to be reunited with Mr. Nguyen's parents, an event for which they had prayed for months.

"What an unusual and marvelously loving family," commented Margo Smith to her fellow nurse, Lang Duong, herself a Vietnamese American. "Actually, Margo," laughed Lang, "they are not particularly remarkable. Almost any Vietnamese family would be just as delighted. Family is about the most important consideration in our lives, you know."

Two months later, Margo buttonholed Lang at lunchtime. "We need to talk," said Margo, frowning. "The Nguyen family brought in the baby today. She had acute respiratory infection with a serious cough and fever. The ARI is not the problem, though. What bothers me is that I saw many bruises on her chest and back. When I asked Mrs. Nguyen about them, she said the grandfather had been responsible for them. But she got embarrassed and changed the subject when I asked for more details. And I thought they were such a loving family. Now what should I do about this child abuse? Is the grandfather senile? To where should I refer the family?"

What did Ms. Duong advise?

Possible Explanations

- (1) Ms. Duong suggested that her colleague monitor the family carefully for another few months. She thinks the older Mr. Nguyen may be having some difficulty adjusting and will return to normal soon.
(Turn to page 100.)
- (2) Ms. Duong suggested that Ms. Smith consult their supervisor, Wilma Green.
(Turn to page 103.)
- (3) Ms. Duong suggested that Ms. Smith do nothing other than give the family another copy of the baby-care brochure in Vietnamese.
(Turn to page 105.)
- (4) Ms. Duong suggested that Ms. Smith arrange for a psychiatric referral for the grandfather.
(Turn to page 120.)

For The Bruised Baby, you chose Answer No. 1

Ms. Duong suggested that her colleague monitor the family carefully for another few months. She thinks the older Mr. Nguyen may be having some difficulty adjusting and will return to normal soon.

For The Bruised Baby, you chose Answer No. 2

Ms. Duong suggested that Ms. Smith consult their supervisor, Wilma Green.

No, it is not necessary to bother Ms. Green about this. Go back to page 19 and try again.

For The Bruised Baby, you chose Answer No. 3

Ms. Duong suggested that Ms. Smith do nothing other than give the family another copy of the baby-care brochure in Vietnamese.

For The Bruised Baby, you chose Answer No. 4

Ms. Duong suggested that Ms. Smith arrange for a psychiatric referral for the grandfather.

Not enough evidence was produced to warrant a psychiatric referral, especially since such a referral would upset the family, as Ms. Duong well knows. There is a better explanation. Return to page 19 and try again.