

Table 1 Distribution of the physicians according to knowledge about physical and social indications of child maltreatment (n = 90)

Knowledge of physical indications of child maltreatment	No. (%)	No. (%)
	Yes	No
Sign of child maltreatment		
Bruises over bony prominences	70 (78)	20 (22)
Broken teeth, without reasonable cause ^a	80 (89)	10 (11)
Burn marks ^a	86 (96)	4 (4)
Dental caries	23 (26)	67 (74)
Head trauma ^a	69 (77)	21 (23)
Bite marks ^a	71 (79)	19 (21)
Careless parents ^a	69 (77)	21 (23)
Shy personality	37 (41)	53 (59)
Has attempted suicide ^a	48 (53)	42 (47)
Abuses alcohol or other drugs ^a	46 (51)	44 (49)
I don't know	11 (12)	79 (88)
All correct answers (7 signs)	10 (11)	80 (89)
Knowledge of social indicators of child maltreatment		
	True	False
Children who have been exposed to child maltreatment will usually tell someone soon after the abuse	24 (27)	66 ^a (73)
Child maltreatment is primarily associated with the stresses of poverty and rarely occurs in middle- or high-income families	44 (49)	46 ^a (51)
The abuser in most cases is someone the child knows well from his/her surrounding environment	73 ^a (81)	17 (19)
The best way to deal with suspected cases of child maltreatment is to confront the parents and accuse them directly of the abuse	26 (29)	64 ^a (71)
All correct answers (4 items)		
	Yes	No
	26 (29)	64 (71)
First action a physician should take if he/she suspects child maltreatment		
Ask the child and parents about the signs/symptoms you noticed ^a	71 (79)	19 (21)
Document the signs/symptoms and your suspicion on the child's file ^a	70 (78)	20 (22)
Monitor the case in following visits ^a	56 (62)	34 (38)
Report to a legal authority ^a	79 (88)	11 (12)
Check the consistency of parents' and/or child's explanation with the clinical findings ^a	67 (74)	23 (26)
Do nothing	5 (6)	85 (94)
Don't know	11 (12)	79 (88)
All correct answer (5 actions)	29 (32)	61 (68)
Circumstances in which physicians should report cases of child maltreatment to an authority		
All circumstances even if child maltreatment is only suspected ^a	60 (67)	30 (33)
In severe cases of child maltreatment	27 (30)	63 (70)
In cases where the physical violence to a child is repetitive	27 (30)	63 (70)
Never	0 (0)	90 (100)
Don't know	7 (8)	83 (92)
The authority to which child maltreatment cases should be reported (select only one answer)		
	No. (%)	
Your superior	11 (12)	
Head of your department	10 (11)	
Ministry of Health	1 (1)	
Police ^a	52 (58)	
Other, please specify (social worker)	1 (1)	
Don't know	15 (17)	
Knowledge score		
Poor (< 50%)	9 (10)	
Fair (50–< 75%)	44 (49)	
Good (≥ 75%)	37 (41)	

^aCorrect answer.