Testing for Occult Injury in Suspected Victims of Physical Abuse

1. Which neurologically asymptomatic children need a Head CT or MRI?
   Children under 2 years of age who have:
   - Rib fractures
   - Multiple fractures
   - Facial injury
   - All children age <6 months of age

   Why?
   Over 30% have occult head injuries on neuroradiology

2. Who needs a skeletal survey?
   - All children under 2 years of age who are suspected victims of physical abuse
   - Patients in the 2- to 5-year-old group must be handled individually based on the specific clinical indicators of abuse.
   - The screening skeletal survey or bone scan has little value in children older than 5 years.


3. Who needs screening for occult abdominal injury?
   - Under 5 years of age
   - Suspected victim of physical abuse

   Screening test: AST and ALT
   - If AST or ALT>80, obtain an abdominal CT

   Why?
   - Occult abdominal injuries have been identified in 3.2% of children meeting these criteria