Fracture type likely a signal of baby's abuse

MDs may have missed warning sign, source says

By ALICIA WILDE and TIMOR GRODE

Doctors who tested baby Tammy Thomas last year say they missed a strong warning sign of abuse. A spiral fracture — the red flag of child abuse — is almost always the type of broken bone that 3-month-old Tammy suffered when she was sexually assaulted at a Scarborough Grace Hospital on Jan. 24, just three weeks before her death.

"All the signs point in the same fre-
table," said a source close to the in-
vestigation. "And very suspicious that it is what she had." Any broken bone is suspicious in a young child, but a spiral fracture is the result of a violent twisting motion that is always a strong warning of abuse, doctors believe. Tammy’s presence was an urgent mystery, pro-
tested the hospital’s president. It was
nearly 3 a.m. and the hospital was still
very quiet. Had they given her the full body X-ray studies would have found at least 12 other broken bones in her ileum, laparoscopic.

Tammy was found dead in her play-

area in her Scarborough apartment when her mother returned home Monday afternoon. An autopsy, which began the same day, revealed that Tammy had sustained a "complex" of injuries.

Said Dr. Curtis Rackel, 22, faces charges of second-degree murder.

The star also has learned that Tam-

my may have suffered from another un-
tested broken bone. "There are signs of fractures in both of her hands," the source said.

The 17-week-old baby’s body, which is at the Hooch Trail, Greatting, underfor-
ter further tests yesterday to determine the cause.

It is not known whether any of Tam-

my’s broken bones are the result

of her being abused, or whether

they were broken during a longer period of time. The broken bones may be clas-
tical, but that will take some time.

"The assumption is that this has occurred over a long period of time," he said. "That she’s been abused for a long period of time."

Said Dr. William Jones of the Toronto police: "She definitely did have a different type of abuse in the last few months, a different type of bruises."

Said yesterday he intends to in-

vestigate whether the hospital en-
couraged the Tammy’s Children’s Aid Society interview.

"If the Children and Family Services Agency says to call the CAS immediately and if they don’t do that," then they could be sanctioned to family court and be ab-

le to request the CAS immediately.

Said Dr. Jones.

Durham CAS ‘acted quickly’

Durham Region’s Children’s Aid So-

ciety officials say they acted quickly to possible when they took 12-month-old baby to the Scarborough Grace Hospital.

"The child was treated immediately," he said. "She was taken to a hospital on the next day with a broken arm, and her 3-

year-old brother, who recently suf-
fected broken collarbones.

The CASe has been monitoring the famil since Jan. 1, he said, when the girl was taken to a hospital with a head injury. Durham officials investigated and discovered the brother’s injuries, but concluded there was no evidence for charges, police said. The CAS then had the children were not in "a worrying situation."