

Cerebral Palsy

What is it:

Cerebral Palsy is a group of problems that affect body movement and posture. It is related to a brain injury or to problems with brain development. Cerebral palsy causes reflex movements that a person can't control and muscle tightness that may affect parts or the whole body which can range from mild to severe in intensity. Intellectual disability, seizures, and vision and hearing problems can occur.

Who is at risk: Any fetus

Cause: Often the exact cause of cerebral palsy is not known, but some of the causes that have been found include:

- Premature birth
- Inadequate blood, oxygen, or other nutrients supply before or during birth.
- A serious head injury.
- A serious infection, such as meningitis that can affect the brain.

Congenital

Symptoms: Some people who have cerebral palsy have a slight limp or a hard time walking. Other people have little or no control over their arms and legs or other parts of the body, such as the tongue and mouth, which can cause problems with eating and speaking. People who have severe forms of cerebral palsy are more likely to have other problems, such as seizures or intellectual disability.

How is it diagnosed: After a complete history and exam, tests, such as an MRI or CT scan of your child's head, may also be done. Or the doctor may look at ultrasound pictures of the brain. These tests can sometimes help the doctor find the cause of cerebral palsy.

Complications: Muscle weakness, muscle spasticity and coordination problems can contribute to a number of complications either during childhood or later during adulthood, including:

Contracture, Malnutrition, Mental health conditions, Neurological conditions

Home Treatment: Even though cerebral palsy can't be cured, there are things that can be done to help deal with symptoms, prevent problems, and make the most of the patient's abilities. Physical therapy is one of the most important treatments. Medicines, surgery, and special equipment such as a walker can also help.

Did you know?

Even when the condition is present at birth, the signs of cerebral palsy may not be noticed until a child is 1 to 3 years old.

<http://www.webmd.com/children/tc/cerebral-palsy-topic-overview#2>

www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cerebral-palsy/symptoms.../dxc-20236552