



CEREBRAL PALSY

Department of Prevention of Communication Disorders (POCD)



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1. What is Cerebral palsy?

Cerebral palsy is a condition resulting from injury to the brain at any time during the pregnancy, at birth or till the age of three.

2. What are the causes of Cerebral palsy?

Cerebral palsy may result from

- injury to the brain of the newborn child during delivery
- complications due to usage of instruments for delivery
- infections to the mother or newborn child during delivery
- lack of oxygen supply to the baby during birth
- birth before the expected date
- attack of jaundice soon after birth

3. What are the early signs associated with cerebral palsy?

Children with cerebral palsy may exhibit the following features:

- Difficulty in Feeding
- Drooling of saliva
- Difficulty maintaining bowel/bladder control
- Looseness/ Floppiness
- Crossed legs
- Delayed sitting, walking and crawling
- Uncontrolled movements of the body
- Slow or jerky movements
- Tremors or seizures
- Speech and language delay

4. How to prevent cerebral palsy?

- Eat healthy food during pregnancy
- Routine check up with your doctor
- Avoid taking any medication without the consultation with the doctor
- Avoid fall, accident or any injury during pregnancy
- Avoid taking X-rays during pregnancy
- Avoid drinking alcohol during pregnancy
- Avoid breathing cigarette smoke during pregnancy
- Observe the child's overall development in the first three years after birth



- Keep the child healthy, feed mother's milk.
- Take vaccinations on time
- Provide clean, healthy environment for the child to grow.

5. Does cerebral palsy increase in severity?

No. Cerebral palsy does not increase in severity as the child grows.

6. What are the other problems associated with cerebral palsy?

Since cerebral palsy is caused due to injury to the brain a number of associated problems may be seen. Some of them are:

- Difficulty in independent movement and play
- Difficulty in doing daily activities independently (bathing, toileting, feeding etc)
- Difficulty in learning new skills
- Difficulty in mingling with others
- Poor academic performance



7. What should be done if you find symptoms of cerebral palsy in your child?

Contact a paediatrician and rehabilitation professional (Speech language pathologist, Physiotherapist, Occupational therapists, Psychologists, Special educators) immediately.

8. Can cerebral palsy be cured?

There is no cure for cerebral palsy. However, the abilities of children with cerebral palsy can be improved with the help of rehabilitation professional.

9. Who is rehabilitation professional?

Rehabilitation professionals are a multi disciplinary team who help in overall development of the child with cerebral palsy. They include speech and language pathologist, Physiotherapist, Occupational therapists, Clinical Psychologists, Special educators and Social worker.

10. Who is a speech language pathologist?

Speech language pathologists help in developing communication skills in a child with cerebral palsy. They perform tests to understand your child's communication skills and plan the most appropriate therapy program to improve your child's speech, language learning skills.

11. Is cerebral palsy always associated with speech and language delay?

Mostly yes. Most of the children with cerebral palsy show significant delay in the development of speech, language, motor and cognitive abilities.

12. What will happen if you do not take your child to rehabilitation professional?

Your child will always lack in overall development, skills and abilities when compared to other children of the same age stopping him/her from attending normal schooling, learning and being independent in future life. This may make him/her handicapped in the society.

13. Where can I find a Speech Language Pathologist?

Speech Language Pathologists work in all major hospitals, private clinics, speech and hearing institutes and schools.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND INFORMATION

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