

My Baby's Brain Condition

Narrator

If you learn that your baby has a brain issue, there might be a number of causes depending on whether you're baby is premature or born at or near term.

Sue Hall, MD, Neonatologist

Brain issues are really different usually depending on whether the baby is premature or term. So premature babies are more likely to have bleeding in the brain called intra ventricular hemorrhage or IVH. They are also susceptible to a problem as they get closer to discharge called PVL, or periventricular leukomalacia, which is little injuries of the tissue around the ventricles.

Mitchell Goldstein, MD

Bleeding in the brain is something that occurs with babies who are born very prematurely. The more premature the baby is, the higher the risk for having a brain bleed. If your baby were to have a brain bleed it's important to have a discussion with the neonatologist as to how serious a bleed this is and what might be the risk for later development.

Narrator

Babies born at term might have other issues that will need to be watched. Some may have a brain injury from a lack of oxygen before or after birth. There are other risks as well.

Sue Hall, MD, Neonatologist

Term babies are more likely to have problems such as seizures or congenital malformations of the brain, or some type of episode at delivery that deprived them of oxygen that will result in neurologic problems after birth.

Narrator

To address the possibility of a brain injury, your baby might undergo tests such as ultrasounds, MRI's or a CT scan to help determine a diagnosis and a course of action.

Rest assured, your NICU doctors will outline a plan of action to deal with the condition.