





Cerebral Palsy (CP)



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Overview

This group of disorders involves the brain. It affects movement, balance and posture. It can cause other serious issues.

Causes

Cerebral palsy can result from a problem with brain development, which may be linked to a genetic issue. It can also happen when the brain is damaged by things like a stroke, a head injury or lack of oxygen. Cerebral palsy can be caused by an infection. It can happen to a baby in the womb if the mother has rubella or chickenpox. It can also happen to an infant who gets sick.

Symptoms

Cerebral palsy can cause a wide range of problems. You might see things like tremors, slow movements, and problems with coordination. Muscles may be too stiff or too relaxed. A baby with cerebral palsy may be slow to reach development milestones. They may have trouble crawling, walking, and eating. They may have speech delays. One limb or one side of their body may be weaker than the other. Symptoms depend on what part of the brain is affected. For a full list of symptoms and related problems, ask your doctor.

Treatment

Cerebral palsy is treated with therapies and medications. Surgery may be helpful, too. Your doctor will create a plan that's right for you.