



Pediatric Neurology



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The growth and development of your child's brain are directly related to their quality of life. It is the brain that can affect all aspects of health, right from muscle movement to cognitive thinking.

Brain damage or brain abnormalities can compromise your child's eyesight, memory, speech, smelling/hearing senses, and even cause mental disorders such as Schizophrenia!

Neurology is the branch of medical science that specializes in health conditions associated with the nervous system. If your child suffers from any brain, muscle, nerves, or spinal cord problems, then you must consult a pediatric neurologist.

Who is a pediatric neurologist?

A pediatric neurologist specializes in neurological disorders in children ranging from infancy to adolescents.

These healthcare professionals know what symptoms to look out for in children and how to assess and appropriately diagnose the disease or health condition in question.

Since they have immense knowledge and experience, their consultation can help you treat your child's neurological disorders, be it simple or complex. The neurologist will ask you a couple of questions including the child's history. After which, an MRI or CT scan might be performed based on your doctor's assessment.

When should you seek a neurological consultation for your child?

It is essential to observe your child's health pattern from time to time. In case your child shows any symptoms of ill health then, it can either be a regular cold/flu or any other minor illness or in some cases certain signs may be an indication of a more severe health complication. Below is a list of some signs that you should observe carefully in your child:



Chronic headaches or migraines



Imbalance in motor function



Imbalance in motor function



Seizures



Sudden compromised vision

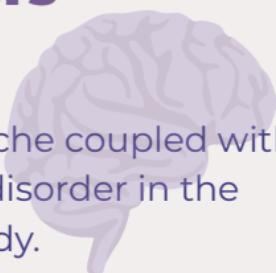
You should see a pediatric neurologist at the earliest if you notice the signs mentioned above for a prolonged period.

What symptoms highlight an underlying neurological disorder for your child?

Babies born with congenital abnormalities, premature babies, brain damage or injury, accident impacting the brain are all reasons that can lead to neurological disabilities. A few common symptoms you should be aware of are:

- A headache that is at a constant scale of pain for prolonged periods can indicate signs of a much more severe condition that must be checked immediately.
- Suppose any of your child's sensory organs are compromised, for example, your child has been complaining of sudden blurry or double vision coupled with a migraine, then do not misdiagnose it for an eyesight problem. To cross out any underlying neurological condition, you should see a neurologist.
- It is normal to be forgetful. However, if your child has sudden short-term memory loss of certain events or things for an extended period, it could be an indication of something significantly serious.
- Muscle weakness, trembling, or not feeling certain sensations on the feet or lower half can be a cause for alarm. This could be a sign of a neurodegenerative disease that a trained professional must diagnose at the earliest.
- If your child develops slurred speech, impaired language, or lack of coordination in muscle movement, it could be possible that it is a spinal health condition.

What are some common neurological disorders seen in children?



- **Headache:** Consistent headache coupled with other symptoms indicates a disorder in the brain or other parts of the body.
- **Cerebral Palsy:** This is a birth defect that affects the child throughout their life. The child will have rigid and unpredictable muscle movements and impaired reflexes. Medication, therapy, and surgery can minimize the effects.
- **Dyslexia:** Children aged 5-12 can sometimes develop problems in school. They maybe slow to grasp concepts or learning certain words or numbers or write similar letters or digits is difficult for them. This is called Dyslexia. While it's not a brain disorder, it still has hereditary component.
- **Epilepsy:** One of the most common neurological disorders in children, it induces seizures including sudden rigidity, vigorous trembling/shaking with closed fits, stiff muscles, face twitching, losing consciousness, uncontrollable bladder/ bowel movement, etc. Different parts of the brain trigger different types of seizures.
- Other disorders such as Autism and Dyspraxia impact children's communication and motor skills, and are a result of neurological abnormalities.

Can neurological disorders or abnormalities be cured?

While some conditions like a tumor or an aneurysm can be surgically removed and fixed, certain other conditions such as cerebral palsy or Parkinson's disease, which involves nerve damage, cannot be cured. By acquiring help from a pediatric neurologist in time, you can reduce the drastic impact of the symptoms that can worsen without any action. Brain damage that occurs due to accidents or external force can result in dangerous and even fatal outcomes. So, ensure that your child is safe and cautious at all times to avoid any such mishaps.



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