

## DID YOU KNOW?

### A STROKE CAN HAPPEN TO INFANTS AND UNBORN BABIES

**Perinatal Stroke:** Usually occurs between the middle of pregnancy and delivery

#### WARNING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

##### NEWBORNS

- **Seizures**
  - Repetitive twitching of face, arm or leg
  - Apnea (pauses in breathing) associated with staring
- **Lethargy, poor feeding**

##### DEVELOPING BABIES

- **Decreased movement or weakness on one side of the body**
- **Showing a hand preference before one year of age**
- **Developmental delays**

**Newborns**—alert medical team/emergency services for possible signs of stroke

### *What to do?*

**Developing Babies**—diagnosis requires early recognition of hand preference, developmental delays or decreased movement on one side of the body. Consult with child's healthcare team which may include a pediatric neurologist. An MRI of the brain is usually required.



#### RISK FACTORS

**The cause in most perinatal strokes remains unknown.**

Some factors that could lead to stroke include:



**Congenital heart disease**



**Disorders of the placenta**



**Acute blood clotting disorders**



**Infections**

#### FACTS

- **LESS THAN 1%** of children with perinatal stroke will go on to have more strokes
- Recurrence in subsequent pregnancies is also **VERY RARE (<1%)**
- Affects about **1 IN 2,000** live births

**60%**

will have permanent neurological deficits, which may include: **one-sided weakness, epilepsy, speech and language difficulties, visual impairments, learning and memory problems, behavior changes**

Learn more at [iapediatricstroke.org](http://iapediatricstroke.org) and [strokeassociation.org](http://strokeassociation.org)

**International Alliance**  
for Pediatric Stroke

**Sources:**

[iapediatricstroke.org/infographic.pdf](http://iapediatricstroke.org/infographic.pdf)  
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