Infants and unborn babies can have a stroke. Perinatal stroke usually occurs between the middle of pregnancy and delivery.

DO YOU KNOW?

- About 1% of children with perinatal stroke will have more strokes.
- Recurrence in future pregnancies is rare (<1%).
- In one study, perinatal stroke affected about one in 3,500 live births.
- About 65% of children with perinatal stroke will have permanent neurological deficits. These may include one-sided weakness, epilepsy, speech and language difficulties, visual impairments, learning and memory problems and behavior changes.

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

WHAT TO DO:
Alert medical team/emergency services for possible signs of stroke.

WARNING SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

NEWBORNS

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

WHAT TO DO:
Consult with your child’s health care team, which may include a pediatric neurologist. An MRI of the brain is usually required.

DEVELOPING BABIES

- Decreased movement or weakness on one side of the body
- Hand preference before age 1
- Developmental delays

WHAT TO DO:
Alert medical team/emergency services for possible signs of stroke.

IF IT LOOKS OR FEELS LIKE A STROKE, IT MAY BE ONE.

Learn more at stroke.org.

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