



American Stroke Association®
A division of the American Heart Association.

Together to End Stroke®

DO YOU KNOW?

Infants and unborn babies can have a stroke.

Perinatal stroke usually occurs between the middle of pregnancy and delivery.



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:

Alert medical team/emergency services for possible signs of stroke.

DEVELOPING BABIES

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

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.

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

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 TO 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.*

Learn more at [stroke.org](https://www.stroke.org).

International Alliance
for **Pediatric Stroke**
iapediatricstroke.org

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*The American Stroke Association and the International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke
— collaborating to treat and beat stroke in infants and children.*