STROKES CAN HAPPEN AT ANY AGE

Pediatric stroke can happen in infants, children and even before birth.

PERINATAL STROKE
Last few months of pregnancy to 1-month-old

Risk Factors

The cause in most perinatal strokes remains unknown.
Risk factors that could lead to stroke include:
- Congenital heart disease
- Diseases affecting the brain’s arteries
- Infections affecting the brain or other organs

Warning

Signs of a perinatal stroke may go unrecognized for months or years because the signs can be subtle.

Newborns:
Seizures may be an early sign:
- Repetitive twitching of face, arm or leg
- Apnea (pauses in breathing) associated with staring

Developing Children:
- Decreased movement or weakness on one side of the body
- Showing a hand preference, or consistently reaching out with only one hand before 1 year of age

Signs

Additional Signs in Children Include:
- Severe sudden headache, especially with vomiting and sleepiness
- Weakness or numbness on one side of the body
- Difficulty speaking or understanding others
- Vision loss or double vision
- Severe dizziness or loss of coordination
- New-onset of seizures usually on one side of the body

Time is Brain at Any Age

Don’t delay!
Prompt diagnosis and treatment of stroke in children is as critical as it is in adults.

Risk Factors

Risk factors in children ≠ Risk factors in older adults

Risk factors for children include:
- Head trauma
- Sickle cell disease
- Autoimmune disorders

No previous risk factor is identified in about half of childhood stroke cases.

NEWBORNs:
Quick recognition → Prompt medical evaluation and treatment

BABIES:
Early diagnosis → Rehabilitation treatment can start while a young brain is still developing

Learn more at:
iapedralstroke.org
StrokeAssociation.org

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