
Meet the CHLA Team:

At CHLA, we use a multidisciplinary team approach, which means your child will benefit from working with our orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, occupational therapists, orthopedic nurses, and orthotists. The Brachial Plexus Clinic at CHLA specializes in providing complete care and unique treatment plans from infancy to school age children.

Our Physicians:

- **Nina Lightdale-Miric, MD**
Orthopaedic Surgeon, CHLA
Director, Hand and Upper Extremity Program, CHLA
- **Milan Stevanovic, MD**
Orthopaedic Surgeon, CHLA
Director, Joseph H. Boyes Hand Fellowship Program at USC
- **Mark Krieger, MD**
Neurosurgeon, CHLA
Director, Neurosurgery Fellowship Program at USC

CATCH

The Brachial Plexus Clinic at CHLA places great value on the psychosocial support of families and children with Perinatal Brachial Plexus Injuries. The CATCH Program (Center for Achievement of Teens and Children with Hand differences) is a supportive community and resource center for children with all hand and arm differences treated at CHLA.

www.chla.org/CATCH

Facebook: CATCH at CHLA

Questions?

If you have questions about the Brachial Plexus Clinic, please contact us.

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We Treat Kids Better

Brachial Plexus Clinic at CHLA



At CHLA, we have a clinic devoted to Perinatal Brachial Plexus Injuries where your child can receive medical evaluation and treatment from our team of surgeons, nurses and occupational therapists to help your child regain function and reach their full potential.

What is the brachial plexus?

The brachial plexus is a network of nerves that connect the muscles of the upper extremities (the arm, including the shoulder, elbow and hand) to the spinal cord. Injury to the brachial plexus interrupts the signals that flow from the brain to the arm and often results in the reduction or loss of function or sensation in the arm.

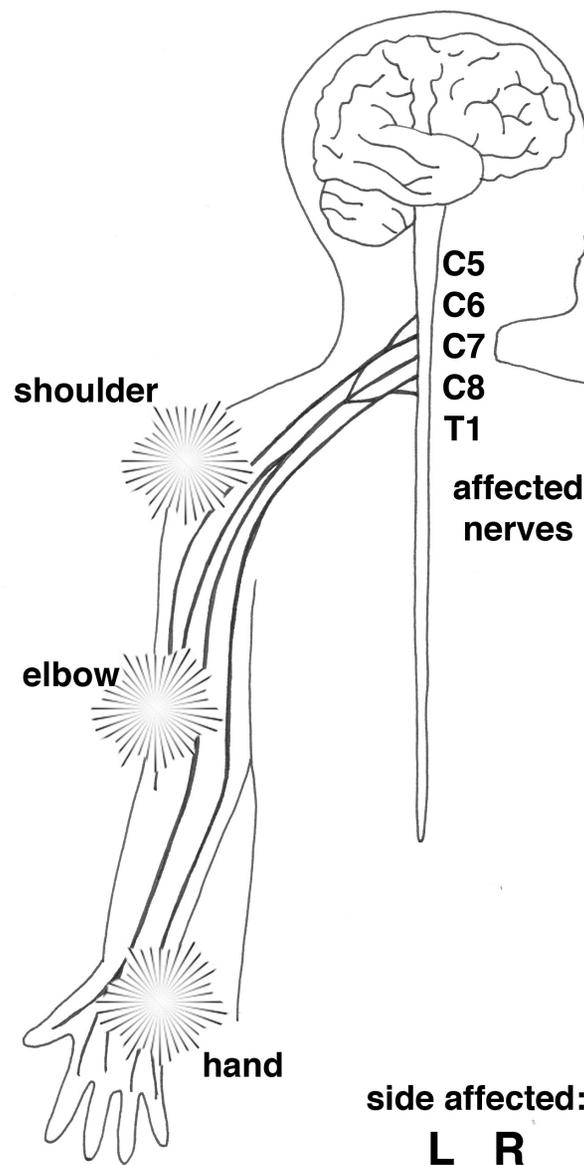
When an injury to the brachial plexus occurs just before, during, or after childbirth, the resulting injury is called a **Perinatal Brachial Plexus Injury (PBPI)**. These injuries are fairly common and affect approximately one child out of every 1000 live births.

Does my child need surgery?

Most cases (~75-85%) of PBPI do not require surgery, but more severe injuries may benefit from early surgical intervention to restore muscle function, range of motion, and strength.

Generally, recovery from surgery will be achieved by 6 to 12 months with the help of occupational therapy.

Perinatal Brachial Plexus Injury



What does a PBPI look like and how is it diagnosed?

Infants with PBPI are often unable to move their affected shoulder, elbow, or hand muscles in the same way as their unaffected side. This may result in a temporary or lifelong difference of the arm and hand in activities and appearance.

The Brachial Plexus Clinic at CHLA will provide a clinical evaluation to assess muscle function and sensation in the affected area. This often requires x-rays or other imaging studies, such as MRI, for clear diagnosis.

What is the quality of life for children with PBPI?

Most children will recover spontaneously and be minimally hindered by their injury. For children that have moderate or severe involvement, all are capable of leading full and productive lives, participating in school activities, sports, music and art.

What treatments are available?

Early therapy is important to the recovery of muscle control and use. Our occupational therapy team works with infants and their families to create a personalized program including range of motion (ROM) exercises, strength training, adjunctive nerve recovery modalities to improve function of the shoulder, arm, and hand.

Botox® therapy, casting, orthotic bracing, or surgical treatment, including nerve repair, graft or transfer, tendon or muscle transfer, or bone correction may be recommended. Treatment is designed based on each individual child's needs.