

# 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

## CHILDHOOD STROKE

1-month-old to 18 years

### RISK FACTORS

The cause in most perinatal strokes remains unknown.

Risk factors that could lead to stroke include:

- Congenital heart disease
- Disorders of the placenta
- Blood clotting disorders
- Infections (e.g. Meningitis)



Risk factors in children ≠ Risk factors in older adults

Risk factors for children include:

- Congenital heart disease
- Diseases affecting the brain's arteries
- Infections affecting the brain or other organs
- Head trauma
- Sickle cell disease
- Autoimmune disorders

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

### WARNING SIGNS

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 are often missed in children because there is a lack of awareness that strokes can happen in this age group.

**STROKE 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

**NEWBORNS:**

Quick recognition ▶ Prompt medical evaluation and treatment

**BABIES:**

Early diagnosis ▶ Rehabilitation treatment can start while a young brain is still developing



**DON'T DELAY!**

Prompt diagnosis and treatment of stroke in children is as critical as it is in adults.

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

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