

Some Facts About Cerebral Palsy

The following cerebral palsy information should be of use to parents who have just had their child diagnosed with this condition.

1: Cerebral Palsy Is Not a Disease

Cerebral palsy, in fact, isn't just one condition. The term applies to a range of conditions. What they have in common is that they all emanate from a brain injury that occurs before, during or shortly after birth. They also have in common the fact that the brain injury affects control of the muscles and muscle tone.

2: Cerebral Palsy Is Not Degenerative

The symptoms of cerebral palsy do sometimes get worse with age but the underlying brain injury does not get worse on its own. Unfortunately, the condition does not heal, either. There is currently no medical technology available that's capable of repairing brain injuries.

3: Cerebral Palsy Doesn't Mean Mental Impairment

Around a third of the people who have cerebral palsy are not mentally impaired at all. Another third have very minor symptoms. This means that there is a good chance that your child will not suffer severe mental impairment, though there is always a chance that they will. Unfortunately, parents usually have to wait until their child starts school before they'll know for sure if their child has severe mental impairments.

4: Movement Is the Main Issue

The hardest thing that cerebral palsy sufferers deal with is the inability to control their muscles. This has very significant impacts on their life. They may, for instance, not be able to control their legs or arms and, thus, may be unable to walk or perform everyday tasks. They may also have trouble controlling their facial muscles, which means that they oftentimes drool uncontrollably or that they may not be able to speak clearly.

5: Seizures Are Sometimes Present

Seizures affect about 30 percent of people with cerebral palsy. They can be mild or severe. With time, you'll learn to recognize them if they're not severe. Severe seizures are easy to recognize and may be very disruptive to the sufferer's life.

6: Medical Negligence May Be a Factor

In some cases, [cerebral palsy in infants](#) is the direct result of a [birth injury](#) caused by doctor negligence. If your child was injured because a doctor was negligent, you may want to consider

contacting an attorney to see if you have a viable lawsuit. The compensation may be enough to help pay for treatment and resources for your child.