

## Common Causes of Cerebral Palsy

More than 800,000 people suffer from cerebral palsy in the United States alone. Cerebral palsy is a motor and nerve condition that can result in a number of physical and mental disabilities. When diagnosed with or faced with caring for somebody with cerebral palsy, it is normal to have questions about this horrible affliction. Questions like: What causes this condition? Does cerebral palsy have different causes? Can it be caused at different times?

Although there are questions that are unanswered, even today, doctors, and researchers agree that there are a number of different causes of cerebral palsy:

- **Causes before birth.** About 75 percent of those with cerebral palsy contracted the condition in the womb. Although there are several theories, professionals within the health industry are still unsure of what causes cerebral palsy to form in the womb. Some have linked the condition with the mother having an infection during the pregnancy. Others believe that cerebral palsy is tied with the presence of a vanishing twin that does not survive the pregnancy.
- **Causes during birth.** It is estimated that five to ten percent of those with cerebral palsy have suffered a birth injury. Cerebral palsy may have been a preventable birth injury in some of these cases. If labor goes on for too long, or if the baby does not have a sufficient supply of oxygen during the birth, it could result in cerebral palsy. More specifically, this birth injury could occur if doctors leave the baby in the birth canal for too long, if doctors do not order a c-section quickly enough, if the vacuum extractor is used incorrectly, if forceps are used incorrectly, or if doctors don't act when the fetal heart rate slows.
- **Causes after birth.** About 15 percent of people with cerebral palsy contracted the disorder in their first few years of life. In some cases, cerebral palsy is caused by a head injury from a car accident, child abuse, or other trauma. In other cases, cerebral palsy is caused by diseases such as meningitis, encephalitis, or any number of other bacterial or viral brain infections.

As you can see, there are not only several different causes for cerebral palsy, but also several different times whenever it can form. With issues of birth injury, it is always important to review the situation and be sure that it was not caused by medical negligence. If it was something that could have prevented with proper medical care, then the parents of the child could be eligible to receive damages for their child. Caring for child with cerebral palsy can be extremely expensive, and these damages can be important for the long term care of their child.