

BRACHIAL PLEXUS AND PERIPHERAL NERVE PROGRAM

NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE



The brachial plexus is a network of nerves connecting the brain and spinal cord to the upper and lower limbs. When an injury occurs to these nerves, a loss of limb sensation or movement can follow and may require treatment to repair the damage and restore function. Brachial plexus and peripheral nerve injuries can happen during childbirth if the nerves are stretched or torn, while playing sports, as a result of a tumor, due to acute flaccid myelitis or without any known cause.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles is home to the West Coast's largest Brachial Plexus and Peripheral Nerve Program. Staffed by experts from our Neurological Institute and the Jackie and Gene Autry Orthopedic Center, the program treats more patients and performs more complex surgeries than most pediatric centers across the country. This experience caring for a high volume of children with these conditions leads to exceptional results and allows patients to lead healthy, active lives.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Noninvasive treatments

Some injuries to the brachial plexus or peripheral nerves can improve without surgery. For these patients, occupational therapists at Children's Hospital Los Angeles have advanced training that helps patients heal faster and teach families how to perform stretching and movement exercises at home. If a child has lost joint flexibility and requires a splint, cast or brace, we have on-site representatives from bracing companies to ensure the best fit.

Advanced surgical interventions

When surgery is deemed the best option, the program offers the latest brachial plexus and peripheral nerve injury treatments—including nerve transfers, nerve repairs, muscle or tendon transfers, or bone surgery—to restore sensation and movement to the affected limb. Most surgeries are done during a baby's first year and as early as 3 months for the most severe cases. Our surgeons are among an elite few in the country with the expertise to perform these procedures, while dedicated nurses guide each family through the surgery and recovery phase.

Enhanced diagnostics

We have one of the few centers in Los Angeles that offers electromyography and nerve conduction tests for children. These tests assess muscle and nerve function and generate information that helps specialists determine the best treatment plan based on each child's specific injury.

WHY CHOOSE US

- The Brachial Plexus and Peripheral Nerve Program uses a team approach to treatment. Neurologists conduct diagnostic tests to help identify the source of the injuries, while neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons collaborate in the operating room to address every issue related to a brachial plexus or peripheral nerve condition. Occupational therapists help patients perform stretching and movement exercises that are important before and after surgery.

- Housed within the Neurological Institute—which has been consistently recognized as one of the top programs in the country by U.S. News & World Report—the Brachial Plexus and Peripheral Nerve Program is a multidisciplinary clinic that allows patients to see all the necessary specialists during the same appointment, making care as convenient as possible for families.
- If a child has brachial plexus or peripheral nerve injury symptoms, an accurate diagnosis is essential to allow neurology, neurosurgery and orthopedic experts to deliver timely, appropriate treatment. The Brachial Plexus and Peripheral Nerve Program regularly provides second opinions and treatment recommendations to families beyond the Greater Los Angeles region.
- The Center for Achievement of Teens and Children With Hand Differences (CATCH) within the Jackie and Gene Autry Orthopedic Center at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles provides psychosocial support for patients and their families. Through mentor programs, peer and parent support groups, special events, scholarships, prosthetics, volunteering opportunities and activities such as adaptive rock climbing, CATCH empowers children of all ages and strengthens their resilience and confidence.

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AND TRANSPORT SERVICES**

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