

Cerebral palsy and Homoeopathy

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Definition

Cerebral palsy (CP) is a group of permanent, bilateral, symmetrical, nonprogressive disorders associated with developmental brain injuries leading to motor dysfunction caused by birth trauma or hypoxia occurring during foetal development, birth, or shortly after birth.

The clinical picture may present with spasticity, involuntary movements, unsteadiness in walking, convulsions, visual and auditory problems, speech difficulties, psychological problems, learning disabilities and orthopaedic problems.

Causes

Cerebral Palsy occurs due to insult or damage to immature brain. The exact cause is sometimes difficult to determine but it can be grouped as below-

1- Antenatal causes

Infections in mother like rubella, herpes, cytomegalovirus, toxoplasmosis etc.

2- Perinatal causes

Birth injury or hypoxia occurring during birth or after birth. Preterm children and low birth weight (<1.5 gm) have increased risk.

3- Post natal causes

Injury to brain, meningitis, encephalitis and jaundice.

Types of Cerebral Palsy

1- Topographical classification

- a. **Monoplegia**- Involvement of one limb.
- b. **Hemiplegia**- Involvement of one side of the body.
- c. **Diplegia**- Involvement of both lower limbs with minimal involvement of the upper limbs.
- d. **Paraplegia**- Implies no upper limb involvement only lower limb involvement.
- e. **Triplegia**- Involvement of one side of the body, as in hemiplegia, combined with involvement of the contralateral lower limb. The lower limb involvement is always asymmetrical.

- f. **Quadriplegia**- Involvement of all four limbs and the trunk. The alternative name is whole body involvement.

2- Classification according to movement disorders

- a. **Spastic or Pyramidal**- Characterised by muscles and joints that are tight and inability to stretch them. Child walks on toes or legs make scissors movements.
- b. **Non spastic or Extrapyrmidal**- Characterised by twisting, jerking, or writhing of the hands, feet, arms, or legs while awake, worse during periods of stress e.g. Dyskinetic, athetoid, chorea, ataxia, hypotonia.
- c. **Cerebellar**- Characterized by hypotonia, hyporeflexia with intention tremors.
- d. **Mixed**- Diffused neurological involvement.

Symptoms

The signs of cerebral palsy are usually not obvious in early infancy but become more clear as the nervous system matures.

1- Early signs

Delayed milestones such as controlling head, rolling over, reaching with one hand, sitting without support, crawling, or walking.

Persistence of infantile or primitive reflexes, which usually vanish 3-6 months after birth.

Developing handedness before age 18 months indicating weakness or abnormal muscle tone on one side.

Problems and disabilities related to CP range from very mild to very severe related to the severity of the brain damage.

2- Abnormal muscle tone

Muscles may be very stiff (spastic) or unusually relaxed and floppy. Limbs may be kept in unusual or awkward positions. Spastic leg muscles may cause legs to cross in a scissor-like position.

3- Abnormal movements

Movements may be uncontrolled, purposeless, unusually jerky, abrupt, slow and writhing.

4- Skeletal deformities

One sided cerebral palsy patients may have shortened limbs on the affected side and may lead to tilting of the bones and scoliosis.

5- Joint contractures

Severe stiffening of the joints may appear due to unequal pressures on the joints exerted by muscles of differing tone or strength.

6- Mental retardation

In some, mental retardation is seen, the more severe the retardation, the more severe the disability overall.

7- Seizures

About one third of patients of CP have seizures which may appear early in life or years after the brain damage. The physical signs of a seizure may be somewhat masked by the abnormal movements of a person with cerebral palsy.

8- Speech problems

Some CP patients are unable to control muscles of speech and thus cannot speak normally.

9- Swallowing problems

Cerebral palsy patients are unable to control muscles of swallowing and have problems sucking, eating, drinking, and controlling their saliva. They may drool. There is also greater risk of aspiration which can cause infection or even suffocation.

10- Hearing loss

The child with CP may not respond to sounds or may have delayed speech.

11- Vision problems

Three quarters of CP patients have nystagmus or strabismus due to weakness of the ocular muscles. They are often nearsighted.

12- Dental problems

CP patients be apt to have more cavities than usual. This results from both defects in tooth enamel and difficulties brushing the teeth.

13- Bowel and/or bladder control problems

These all are caused by lack of muscle control.

Diagnosis

- Blood investigations to rule out deficiency of certain vitamins and factors.
- X Ray of affected bones or joints.
- CT scan or MRI of brain to localise the lesion.
- Electroencephalogram (EEG) for diagnosis of convulsions.
- Hearing screen.
- Vision testing.
- Development quotient (DQ) and intelligence quotient (IQ).

Treatment

Treatment of cerebral palsy needs a team of- Paediatrician, Occupational therapist and, physiotherapist, Neurologist, Ophthalmologist, Paediatric orthopaedic surgeon, Pulmonologist, Gastroenterologist, Psychiatrist, Dentist, Medical social worker at various stages.

A competent Homoeopath is the best one to treat CP as only Homoeopathy is the system of healing that deals with above all and more than above simultaneously.

Homoeopathic remedies for CP in decreasing order of similia

Bell > Hell > Zinc > Stram > Apis > Merc > Op > Phos > Rhus-t > Verat-v > Caust > Gel > Hyosc > Lach > Acon > Arnica > Aeth > Alum > Bry > Canth > Sulph > Aml-ni > Cocc > Glon > Kali-br > Nux-v > Plb > Puls > Bufo > Kali-I > Lyc > Ph-ac > Apomorph > Ars > Camph > Carb-s > Con > Cupr-act > Curare > Sulphon > Tab > Agar > Am-ph > Anac > Bapt > Cann-s > Chen-ant > Chlol > Cic > Coff > Graph > Ign > Kali-chl > Lath > Mur-ac > Nux-m > Ox-ac > Physalis-al > Pic-ac > Sang > Tarent > Verat > Viola-o > Ail > Am-c > Ant-s-pur > Atrop-pur > Aur > Bar-c > Cadm-s > Cham > Chel > Chlorpr > Cimic > Coc-c > Coffin > Corn > Croc > Cupr > Cypr > Dat-a > Dol > Dulc > Ferr-p > Ferr > Form > Hyper > Iberis > Kali-p > Lith-br > Nat-m > Pip-m > Podo > Ruta > Seneg > Sol-nig > Spig > Stann > Sumb > Ter > Visc > Zinc-s > Ziz

Short Repertory of Cerebral Palsy

Brain - CEREBRAL, palsy [arn.](#) [caust.](#) [con.](#) [gels.](#) [hell.](#) [ign.](#) [lath.](#) [op.](#)

Brain - CONVULSIONS, brain problems, from - cerebral, softening [alum.](#) [Bufo Caust.](#)

Brain - EMBOLISM, middle cerebral artery, causes aphasia [Kali-br.](#)

Brain - REACTION, lack of cerebral [hell.](#) [op.](#) [zinc.](#)

CHEST - INFLAMMATION - cerebral type, lungs [acon.](#) [arn.](#) [bell.](#) [bry.](#) [cann-s.](#) [canth.](#) [hyos.](#) [lach.](#) [merc.](#) [nux-v.](#) [phos.](#) [puls.](#) [rhus-t.](#) [stram.](#) [sulph.](#)

CHEST - INFLAMMATION - Lungs - cerebral type [acon.](#) [arn.](#) [bell.](#) [bry.](#) [cann-xyz.](#) [canth.](#) [hyos.](#) [lach.](#) [merc.](#) [nux-v.](#) [phos.](#) [puls.](#) [rhus-t.](#) [stram.](#) [sulph.](#)

CHEST - Inner - pneumonia - cerebral type [acon.](#) [bell.](#) [bry.](#) [canth.](#) [hyos.](#) [lach.](#) [merc.](#) [nux-v.](#) [phos.](#) [puls.](#) [rhus-t.](#) [stram.](#) [sulph.](#)

Chest and lungs - pneumonia - cerebral type [acon.](#) [arn.](#) [bell.](#) [bry.](#) [cann-xyz.](#) [canth.](#) [hyos.](#) [lach.](#) [merc.](#) [nux-v.](#) [phos.](#) [puls.](#) [rhus-t.](#) [stram.](#) [sulph.](#)

Clinical - Blood, general - plethora, blood - cerebral, congestion, intense [Verat-v.](#)

Clinical - blood, vessels, general - distention, blood vessels - arteries - cerebral congestion [bell.](#) [glon.](#) [Verat-v.](#)

Clinical - cerebral, palsy [arn.](#) [caust.](#) [con.](#) [gels.](#) [hell.](#) [ign.](#) [lath.](#) [op.](#)

Clinical - convulsions, general - alternating, with - cerebral, congestion [bell.](#) [hyos.](#)

Clinical - convulsions, general - brain, problems, from - cerebral, softening [alum.](#) [Bufo Caust.](#)

Clinical - convulsions, general - cerebral, softening [alum.](#) [Bufo Caust.](#)

Clinical - embolism, blood - cerebral, middle artery, causes aphasia [Kali-br.](#)

Clinical - fatty, degeneration, organs - liver, - heart disease, sequel of - dilatation of right, caused by cerebral edema [phos.](#)

Clinical - measles, infection - cerebral, symptoms, with [aeth.](#) [apis](#) [Bell.](#) [camph.](#) [coff.](#) [Cupr-act.](#) [stram.](#) [verat-v.](#) [viol-o.](#) [zinc.](#)

Clinical - pneumonia, infection, inflammation, lungs - cerebral, type [acon.](#) [arn.](#) [bell.](#) [bry.](#) [cann-s.](#) [canth.](#) [hyos.](#) [lach.](#) [merc.](#) [nux-v.](#) [phos.](#) [puls.](#) [rhus-t.](#) [stram.](#) [sulph.](#)

Convulsions, spasms - cerebral softening, from [caust.](#)

EXTERNAL THROAT - PULSATION - bloodvessels - carotid - congestion, with cerebral [atro-pur.](#) [kali-br.](#)

EYES - DISCOLORATION - redness - congestion, with cerebral [kali-br.](#)

Eyes - PARALYSIS, eyes - optic nerve, amaurosis - transient, complicating motor palsy [plb.](#)

FACE - DISCOLORATION - red - flushes - congestion, with cerebral [aml-ni.](#) [coffin.](#) [corn.](#) [iber.](#) [kali-br.](#) [lith-br.](#) [visc.](#) [ziz.](#)

FACE - Muscles; facial - Paralysis [Acon.](#) [aethi-m.](#) [alum.](#) [Am-p.](#) [bell.](#) [cadm-s.](#) [Caust.](#) [cocc.](#) [cur.](#) [Dulc.](#) [form.](#) [Gels.](#) [Graph.](#) [hyper.](#) [Kali-chl.](#) [Kali-i.](#) [physal-al.](#) [Rhus-t.](#) [ruta](#) [Seneg.](#) [zinc-pic.](#)

FEVER - CONTINUED fever - cerebral [Apis](#) [arn.](#) [Bapt.](#) [Bry.](#) [canth.](#) [cic.](#) [Gels.](#) [HYOS.](#) [Lach.](#) [Lyc.](#) [nux-m.](#) [Op.](#) [Ph-ac.](#) [Phos.](#) [Rhus-t.](#) [STRAM.](#) [verat-v.](#) [verat.](#)

FEVER - CONTINUED fever - congestive - cerebral paralysis; with threatened [hell.](#) [Lach.](#) [Lyc.](#) [OP.](#) [Ph-ac.](#) [Phos.](#) [tarent.](#) [zinc.](#)

FEVER, HEAT - CONTINUED fever, typhus, typhoid - cerebral [APIS](#) [arn.](#) [BAPT.](#) [BRY.](#) [canth.](#) [cic.](#) [GELS.](#) [HYOS.](#) [LACH.](#) [LYC.](#) [nux-m.](#) [OP.](#) [PH-AC.](#) [PHOS.](#) [RHUS-T.](#) [STRAM.](#) [sumb.](#) [verat-v.](#) [verat.](#)

FEVER, HEAT - CONTINUED fever, typhus, typhoid - congestive - threatening - cerebral paralysis **hell. LACH. LYC. OP. PH-AC. PHOS. tarent. zinc.**

FEVER, HEAT - ERUPTIVE fevers - rubella, measles - cerebral and convulsive symptoms, with **aeth. apis BELL. camph. coff. CUPR-ACT. stram. verat-v. viol-o. zinc.**

FEVER, HEAT - ERUPTIVE fevers - scarlatina - nervous, convulsive, cerebral symptoms, with **aeth. ail. am-c. apis ars. BELL. camph. CUPR-ACT. cupr. HYOS. rhus-t. STRAM. sulph. zinc.**

GENERALITIES - PARALYSIS - general - congestion, from cerebral **cur. zinc-phic.**

GENERALITIES - WEAKNESS, enervation, exhaustion, prostration, infirmity - congestion, from cerebral **zinc-phic.**

GENERALS - CONVULSIONS - cerebral softening **Caust.**

HEAD - ANOXIA; cerebral **op. zinc-s.**

HEAD - BRAIN; complaints of – Cerebrum **cocc.**

HEAD - CONSTRICTION - brain – cerebrum **carbn-s.**

Head - Drawn - forward toward frontal sinuses, lobes of cerebrum were **dirc.**

HEAD - IRRITATION, brain - nervous, cerebrum, extending to cerebellum **dat-a.**

HEAD - NOISES - beating of cerebral arteries **op.**

HEAD - PAIN - dull - brain - cerebrum, on waking **ant-s-aur.**

HEAD - PAIN - pressing - brain – cerebrum **spig.**

HEAD - PAIN - stitching - brain - cerebrum, left **agar.**

HEAD - PAIN - tearing - brain - cerebrum, as if there is no room in skull and it would press out through ear **chel.**

HEAD - REACTION, lack of cerebral **zinc.**

HEAD - WEAKNESS - brain - cerebrum, evening amel. **pip-m.**

Hearing - DEAFNESS, hearing loss of – cerebral **chen-a. mur-ac.**

Hearing - DEAFNESS, hearing loss of - palsy, complicating motor **plb.**

HEARING - LOST - cerebral origin **chen-a. mur-ac.**

HEARING - NOISES - whizzing - congestion, with cerebral **sang.**

Hearing - NOISES, in ears - roaring - cerebral congestion, in **Aur. ferr-p. Op. Sulph. Verat-v.**

Hearing - NOISES, in ears - whizzing - cerebral, congestion, with **sang.**

Heart - CONSTRICTION, sensation - cerebral, congestion, with **aml-ns.**

Heart - PALPITATIONS, general - alternating, with - cerebral, congestion **Glon.**

HEART & CIRCULATION - CONSTRICTION, tension, tightness - heart - congestion, with cerebral **aml-ns.**

HEART & CIRCULATION - PALPITATION heart - alternating with - congestion, cerebral **GLON.**

M - Migraine - cerebral origin **stann.**

MIND - DELIRIUM tremens, mania-a-potu - congestion, with cerebral **chlol.**

MIND - EXCITEMENT, excitable – cerebral **aeth. ars. astac. carbn-s. merc. ox-ac.**

MIND - EXCITEMENT, excitable - tendency – cerebral **aeth. ars. astac. carbn-s. merc. ox-ac.**

MIND - INSANITY, madness - cerebral atrophy, with **chlorpr.**

Mind - INSANITY, madness - congestion, from cerebral **Bell. Stram. verat-v.**

MIND - RECOGNIZE - does not - palsy, in **ANAC.**

NAUSEA AND VOMITING - Vomiting – cerebral **aml-ns. apis apom. bell. glon. hell. merc. zinc.**

NERVOUS SYSTEM - Paralysis - In – face **acon. Am-p. bar-c. bell. caust. cur. gels. graph. Kali-chl. nat-m. physal-al. rhus-t. Zinc-pic.**

Pulse - SLOW, pulse - cerebral disturbance, in, scarcely 60 **croc.**

SENSATIONS AND COMPLAINTS IN GENERAL - Reaction – cerebral **Zinc.**

SLEEP - SLEEPINESS - cerebral effusion, with **APISIN. hell. kali-i.**

SLEEP - Sleepiness - effusion, cerebral **Apis Hell. kali-i.**

Sleep - SLEEPINESS, general - cerebral, effusion, with **Apis hell. kali-i.**

STOMACH - VOMITING - general - cerebral irritation, with **aml-ns. apisin. apom. bell. cyt-l. dor. glon. hell. merc. plb. zinc.**

Stomach - VOMITING, general - cerebral, irritation, with aml-ns. apis apom. bell. cyt-l. dor. glon. hell. merc. plb. zinc.

Stool - FATTY, greasy, stool - oily, looking fecal - amel. cerebral symptoms pic-ac.

Stool - OILY, looking - amel., cerebral symptoms pic-ac.

TEETH - DENTITION - difficult - cerebral, nervous symptoms, with acon. agar. apis BELL. CHAM. cimic. cypr. dol. HELL. kali-br. PODO. sol-ni. ter. ZINC.

VERTIGO - CEREBRAL diseases, in alum. bell. COCC. cyt-l. gels. kali-p. sulfon. tab.

Vision - BLINDNESS, loss of vision - sudden - complicating motor palsy plb.

VISION - LARGE - objects seem - cerebral congestion, in aeth.

References



Radar 10



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Cerebral Palsy Williams Obstetrics, 23e > Chapter 29. Diseases and Injuries of the Fetus and Newborn > Diseases Common in the Preterm Fetus and Newborn > Brain Disorders



Prevention Williams Obstetrics, 23e > Chapter 29. Diseases and Injuries of the Fetus and Newborn > Diseases Common in the Preterm Fetus and Newborn > Brain Disorders



Clearly, for brain damage to occur, the fetus must be exposed to much more than a brief period of... Williams Obstetrics, 23e > Chapter 18. Intrapartum Assessment > Fetal Distress > Fetal Heart Rate Patterns and Brain Damage > Experimental Evidence > Human Evidence



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Clinical Box 12-4 Ganong's Review of Medical Physiology, 24e > Chapter 12. Reflex and Voluntary Control of Posture & Movement > General Principles of Central Organization of Motor Pathways



Gait analysis is now a common tool in the treatment and evaluation of patients who have cerebral... CURRENT Diagnosis & Treatment in Orthopedics > Chapter 1. Basic Science in Orthopedic Surgery > Gait Analysis > Role of Gait Analysis in the Management of Gait Disorders