

# Cerebral Palsy Mobility Surgical Evaluations



Experts in pediatric neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation medicine at Cincinnati Children's offer a comprehensive two-day mobility surgery evaluation for children with cerebral palsy. The multidisciplinary team develops a unified treatment recommendation that is designed to improve the child's ability to walk now and in the future. This convenient, thorough approach helps children with CP reach their mobility goals.

## CONTACT US

To learn more about the Two-Day Mobility Surgery Evaluation Clinic, please contact the program specialist:

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## TWO-DAY MOBILITY SURGERY EVALUATION FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

For many children with cerebral palsy (CP), a major focus of treatment involves learning how to walk and maintaining that ability for life. Surgery often is the best way to help these children reach their full potential.

Cincinnati Children's offers a comprehensive, two-day mobility surgery evaluation that can provide answers and help families chart a clear path forward. During the evaluation, the child will see nationally and internationally respected CP experts from neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, the Motion Analysis Lab and rehabilitation medicine. These specialists will:

- Consider the child's specific needs from their areas of expertise
- Discuss and coordinate their expert recommendations
- Provide an individualized treatment plan that may include surgery

This evaluation is an excellent option for families who do not live in the Cincinnati, Ohio area and are interested in surgical treatment options that may not be available to them close to home. It is available for local families as well.

## WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE MOBILITY SURGERY EVALUATION

The comprehensive mobility surgery evaluation is for children who:

- Have cerebral palsy
- Are 2 to 18 years old
- Can walk, with or without assistance, but could potentially improve their walking abilities through surgery

Good examples of children who may benefit from the evaluation include:

- Toddlers who are not walking well or not meeting their walking milestones or goals
- Children who are losing early walking skills
- Children who are no longer benefiting as much from therapies that seemed to be helping previously



Cincinnati Children's is ranked #3 in the nation, #5 in Orthopaedics and #6 in Neurology & Neurosurgery.



## MEET THE TEAM

### Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

James J. McCarthy, MD, MHCM  
*Director, Division of Pediatric Orthopaedics and the Orthopaedic Cerebral Palsy Clinic*

### Pediatric Neurosurgery

Charles B. Stevenson, MD, FAANS, FACS, FAAP  
*Director, Surgical Spasticity Clinic*

### Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine

Paola Maria L. Mendoza-Sengco, MD  
*Director, Rehab Medicine CP Clinic*

### Motion Analysis Lab

Jason T. Long, PhD  
*Director, Motion Analysis Lab, Division of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy*

### Physical Therapy

Caroline T. Colvin, PT, DPT, PCS  
Molly Thomas, PT, DPT

## A COMPREHENSIVE, TWO-DAY VISIT

The mobility surgery visit includes:

- An evaluation in the Surgical Spasticity Clinic, where a pediatric neurosurgeon, physical therapist and rehab medicine physician will examine the child and consider surgical options to reduce their muscle spasticity
- Testing in the Motion Analysis Lab to identify the underlying causes of the child's walking difficulties
- An assessment in our Orthopaedic Cerebral Palsy Clinic, where an orthopaedic surgeon may order additional imaging studies

## A UNIFIED TREATMENT RECOMMENDATION TAILORED TO THE CHILD'S NEEDS

After the clinical appointments take place, the CP team will meet to discuss the child's condition, needs and goals. They will present the family with a unified treatment recommendation designed to improve the child's ability to walk now and in the future. This plan could include surgical recommendations:

- Neurosurgical procedures to reduce spasticity in the arms and/or legs, including selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) and placement of baclofen pumps
- Orthopaedic reconstructive procedures to improve gait and function, such as osteotomies, tendon lengthening/transfers and guided growth

If the team recommends surgery, and the family is interested in having the surgery at Cincinnati Children's, the team will discuss the next steps with them in detail.

If the team recommends not having surgery or delaying surgery, the team will still provide comprehensive treatment recommendations. These may include changing the child's medications or modifying the child's physical therapy or occupational therapy regimen, for example.

## AN EFFICIENT, THOROUGH APPROACH

The cerebral palsy team at Cincinnati Children's has extensive experience in caring for children with complex needs. Families who come to Cincinnati Children's for the two-day mobility surgical evaluation can expect:

- Prior to the evaluation, a thorough review of the child's medical records and imaging studies
- Assistance with travel and lodging considerations, if needed
- An efficient, well-coordinated visit
- Time to ask questions about their child's needs and treatment options
- A written report and recommendations for families to take home
- Details about what surgery would involve, including after-care instructions
- A realistic idea of how surgery could help the child (or why it might be best to pursue nonsurgical options)

The team will send the child's local physician a written report describing the treatment recommendations. Our specialists are always available as a resource for referring providers in order to ensure seamless follow-up care.

## ABOUT THE CEREBRAL PALSY CENTER AT CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S

Each year, more than 1,600 families depend on the cerebral palsy (CP) team at Cincinnati Children's for their child's care. Our team is part of the No. 3 pediatric hospital in the United States, and includes more than 50 physicians, surgeons, occupational and physical therapists, nurses, social workers, speech-language pathologists and other providers.