

# Differences of Sex Development



Cincinnati Children's is ranked #3 in the nation among Honor Roll hospitals.

## #3

in Diabetes & Endocrinology

## #4

in Urology

The Differences of Sex Development (DSD) Center at Cincinnati Children's provides integrated, compassionate care to meet the complex needs of patients diagnosed with differences of sex development or intersex conditions. We help patients and families achieve optimal health and quality of life through a safe, family-centered approach.

### HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

Our interdisciplinary team includes experienced physicians from six pediatric subspecialties, including endocrinology, gynecology, human genetics, psychology, urology, and ethics. These specialists work closely with nurses, social workers, genetic counselors and child life specialists at the DSD Center to ensure that patients and families receive integrated, comprehensive care in one location. Our team is committed to educating and empowering patients and families to help them receive the best holistic care possible with optimal short and long-term outcomes.

We are one of 13 centers participating in the DSD-Translational Research Network (DSD-TRN), a national consortium working to improve the outcomes of patients and families affected by DSD.

### CONDITIONS TREATED

Our team cares for patients from birth through adulthood, and treats all types of DSD. These include:

#### Conditions involving Sex Glands and Sex Hormones

- Gonadal dysgenesis (complete or partial)
- Testicular regression syndrome ("vanishing testes")
- Conditions resulting from inability to make male sex hormones, including 5 $\alpha$ -reductase deficiency
- Ovotesticular DSD
- Congenital adrenal hyperplasia
- Androgen insensitivity (complete or partial, CAIS or PAIS)

#### Conditions involving Sex Chromosomes

- Mixed gonadal dysgenesis
- Sex chromosome mosaicism
- Conditions resulting from abnormal number or appearance of X and Y sex chromosomes

#### Conditions affecting the Structure and Appearance of the Genitals

- Micropenis
- Severe (penoscrotal) hypospadias
- Absent vagina/Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome
- Müllerian duct abnormalities, such as MURCS syndrome

## TREATMENT TEAM

### Endocrinology

Meilan Rutter, MD  
Jonathan Howell, MD, PhD

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### Ethics

Armand Antommaria, MD, PhD  
Elizabeth Lanphier, PhD, MS

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### Gynecology

Lesley Breech, MD  
Rula Kanj, MD  
Christine Pennesi, MD

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### Human Genetics

Robert Hopkin, MD  
Howard Saal, MD, FACMG  
Jodie Johnson, MS, CGC

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### Psychology

Michelle Ernst, PhD

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### Urology

Andrew Strine, MD  
Brian VanderBrink, MD

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### DSD Staff

Annah George, BA, CCLS  
*Child Life Specialist*

Myra Overton, MSW, LISW-S  
*Social Worker*

Tara Schafer-Kalkhoff, MA  
*Clinical Research Coordinator*

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## CONTACT US

For patient referrals and non-urgent consultation during business hours, contact the DSD Center directly at:

Phone: **513-803-4373**  
**4DSD@cchmc.org**

[www.cincinnatichildrens.org/dsd](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/dsd)

## TREATMENT APPROACH

People with DSD require coordinated care with focused expertise. Our treatment and long-term management are focused on enhancing the physical and psychosocial well-being of patients and their families as they manage the sensitive issues related to DSD. Our interdisciplinary team works with patients and families to develop a comprehensive, personalized care plan, which can include medical management, psychosocial treatment, surgery when indicated, and support services. Treatment options vary depending on the type and complexity of the condition.

### The DSD Center at Cincinnati Children's offers:

- Diagnostic evaluations
  - Examination
  - Imaging (X-ray, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging)
  - Chromosome analysis and genetic testing
  - Hormone testing
- Fertility counseling
- Genetic counseling
- Medical management
  - Hormone therapy (suppression, replacement)
- Psychosocial assessment and intervention
- Surgical procedures when indicated
- Additional support services
  - Child Life
  - Financial counseling
  - Nutrition counseling
  - Social work

For urgent issues, or to speak with the specialist on call 24/7, call the Physician Priority Link® at 1-888-987-7997.

For international inquiries, call +1-513-636-3100 or email [international@cchmc.org](mailto:international@cchmc.org).