

Helmet Therapy

Wearing an orthopedic helmet will not delay a child's development or cause neck/head discomfort. Your child should wear the helmet 23 hours per day unless otherwise instructed. There is no charge for the helmet or adjustments as the cost is covered through Saskatchewan Health.



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The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

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Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan
Health Authority

Craniosyntosis



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Area: Provincial
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About

Craniosynostosis is a condition in which some of the bones in a baby's skull fuse, or join together, too early. This prevents the skull from growing in the usual way. This often results in an abnormal head shape and sometimes increased pressure on the baby's growing brain.

Types

These are several types of synostosis:

1. Sagittal
2. Coronal
3. Metopic
4. Lambdoid
5. Multi-suture

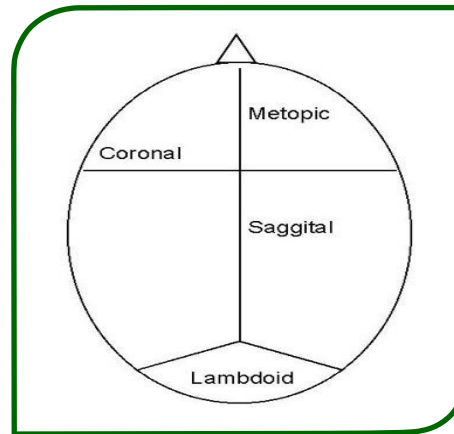
Rarely, craniosynostosis can lead to increased intracranial pressure (ICP) which has the potential to affect brain development and vision.

Signs of ICP are headaches, projectile vomiting, irritable crying, abnormal eye movements/sun-setting eyes, double vision, swelling of the optic nerves (papilledema), and/or bulging fontanelle.

If you notice any of these signs, call our team and please attend to your nearest urgent care center.

Management Options

1. Minimally Invasive Surgery: this type of surgery is sometimes an option and is often performed at less than 4 months. It usually involves resecting the involved suture using a camera called an endoscope.
2. Open Surgery: this type of surgery is also an option, typically for older infants/children. The nature of the open surgical option(s) depends on which suture(s) are involved.
3. Non Operative Management: this is an option for children without raised increased intracranial pressure (ICP).



The decision for surgery is based on severity of head shape difference, the presence or absence of raised ICP, and is a shared decision between the medical team and family. Regardless of management, children will be followed by the clinic until 16 years of age.

Team Members

There are several different physicians and health professionals on the craniofacial team, including neurosurgeons, plastic surgeons, a certified orthoptist, a registered nurse, and a medical social worker.

The neurosurgeons and plastic surgeons evaluate your child to assess for craniosynostosis, and provide medical treatment plans moving forward which can include imaging, observation, helmeting, and/or surgery.

The orthotist works with patients and families, providing helmet therapy when deemed important for the treatment plan.

The nurse coordinates your child's care and eases communication among the care team members and your family by offering support and education along your child's medical journey.

Medical social work is able to provide support before, during, and after surgery to address emotional and social issues that affect overall health and well being of patients and families.