

Infantile spasms are a medical emergency. Immediate treatment is critical.



INFANTILE SPASMS

www.infantilespasms.org



Dup15q Alliance

www.dup15q.org

Signs & Symptoms

Spasm Timing

- Duration 1 second?
- Every 5-15 seconds?

Spasm Movements

- Wide eyes?
- Head drop?
- Raising shoulders/arms?

Cluster Timing

- Occurring in clusters from one to several a day
- Often occur after waking

Developmental Problems

- Loss of Skills?
- Less alert?
- Developmental concerns?

Yes

Testing

Video EEG

- Hypsarrhythmia?
*Infantile Spasms can still occur without the presence of hypsarrhythmia

Yes

Confirming Diagnosis

Infantile Spasms

- Other names for IS
- Epileptic spasms
 - West Syndrome

Yes

Treatment

Medications

Vigabatrin

Hormonal therapy

Prednisolone or ACTH

Epilepsy surgery

Non-medicine therapies

Ketogenic diet

There are hundreds of possible causes of infantile spasms. Almost any disease or disorder of the brain can cause it.

Confirmed Infantile Spasms? What's the Cause?

3 known types of causes

Abnormalities in Brain Structure

Brain Injury After Birth

Genetic Disorders Metabolic Condition

Sometimes there is no known cause of IS

Additional Tests

MRI

- Structural abnormalities?
- Hypoxia?
- Malformations of cortical development?

Genetic testing

The common genetic disorders:

- Tuberous sclerosis complex
- Down Syndrome
- CDKL5 Deficiency disorder
- Dup15q syndrome
- Aicardi syndrome

Prognosis

Common Reasons for Poor Outcomes

- Relapse: treatment is often only temporarily successful
- Prior disease: IS often occurs in with other severe brain diseases

20% will develop normally

- If the child with IS is treated quickly and successfully
- The child does not have another severe brain disorder

Resources

Infantile Spasms Action Network

ISAN is a collaborative network focused on raising awareness for infantile spasms.

www.infantilespasms.org

Brain Recovery Project

BRP provides research-based information to help understand when a child's seizures are drug-resistant.

www.brainrecoveryproject.org