

Cerebral Palsy Intervention Should Start Early

When a child meets the criteria of high risk for Cerebral Palsy (CP), intervention should start as soon as possible, according to an international clinic practice guideline published online on May 17, 2021 in JAMA Pediatrics.

Catherine Morgan, Ph.D., from the University of Sydney, Australia and colleagues conducted a systematic literature review to identify evidence about CP-specific early interventions for children aged 0 to 2 years across nine domains promoting motor function, cognitive skills, communication, eating and drinking, vision, sleep, managing muscle tone, musculoskeletal health and parental support.

Based on 43 studies, the researchers identified three best-practice principles supported for the nine domains:

- 1- immediate referral for intervention after a diagnosis of high risk for CP;
- 2- building parental capacity for attachment; and
- 3- parental goal setting at the commencement of the intervention.

Furthermore, the researchers identified 28 recommendations (24 for and against) specific to the domains that were supported with key evidence: motor function (four recommendations), cognitive skills (two), communication skills (seven), eating and drinking (two), vision (four), sleep (seven), tone (one), musculoskeletal health (two), and parent support (five).

"It is critical that early intervention for CP starts at diagnosis and the associated impairments are monitored and treated according to recommendations," the authors wrote. -[medicalxpress.com](https://www.medicalxpress.com), May 19, 2021