

**IAP - IJPP CME 2023****BIRTH INJURIES****\*Sindhu Sivanandan**

**Abstract:** Birth injury is a trauma sustained during birth, which can be an anatomical defect or functional impairment. Birth injuries commonly occur during the second stage of labour due to the forces of labour or due to obstetric intervention such as traction or instrumentation. They can also be caused inadvertently by intrapartum monitoring devices such as fetal scalp electrodes and heart rate monitors. Effects of fetal procedures such as amniocentesis and intrauterine transfusions and injuries that occur due to neonatal resuscitation are not considered birth injuries. Management depends on the site and severity. Monitoring is very important as the presentation and severity can change rapidly. Physician should document the exact nature of the injury in case records and inform the parents about the severity, management and expected outcome.

**Keywords:** Birth injury, Obstetric intervention, Life-threatening injury.

**Points to Remember**

- Birth injuries occur despite best perinatal care.
- Important risk factors for birth injuries include macrosomia, instrumental deliveries, malpresentation and shoulder dystocia.
- Subgaleal hemorrhage is an emergency requiring aggressive fluid resuscitation.
- Erb's palsy is the most common brachial plexus injury and most cases improve by 3-4 months of age. Treatment is conservative with range of motion exercises.
- Long bone fractures are rare. With immobilization and splinting most heal with good outcomes.

**References**

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