



# Duke Children's Brachial Plexus Birth Palsy Program

Consistently one of the best  
children's hospitals in NC



Multidisciplinary care and comprehensive patient coordination



Advanced nerve and  
musculoskeletal  
reconstruction surgeries

## Overview

We provide comprehensive evaluation and treatment for infants and children with brachial plexus birth injuries beginning as early as two weeks of life. Our multidisciplinary team of specialists offers coordinated care in our nerve health program focused on maximizing upper extremity strength and function.

Through therapist and surgeon combined clinical assessment, advanced imaging, and ongoing functional monitoring, we develop individualized treatment plans that may include therapy, neuromuscular retraining, and microsurgical nerve or tendon procedures when indicated.

## Comprehensive Care

Our team approach ensures that each child receives the most effective treatment at every stage of recovery:

- **Therapy:** Early evaluation and caregiver education to establish home exercises and coordinate local OT/PT care
- **Neurology:** Electrodiagnostic assessment and collaboration with surgeons and therapists to guide nerve recovery
- **Surgery:** Pediatric orthopaedic and plastic surgeons assess recovery, perform nerve or tendon surgeries when indicated, and monitor growth and long-term function

## Treatment Options

We offer a full range of surgical and non-surgical interventions tailored to each child's recovery pattern:

- **Therapy:** Early and ongoing OT/PT to preserve motion, prevent contractures, and support functional gains
- **Nerve Reconstruction:** Microsurgical nerve grafting for infants with limited recovery, typically performed between 6-9 months of life
- **Nerve Transfers:** Peripheral nerve surgery to help isolated recovery of the forearm, elbow, or shoulder, typically performed between 6-9 months of life
- **Tendon Transfer:** Procedures in older children to improve shoulder, elbow, wrist, or hand function when residual weakness or imbalance persists

## When to Refer

Referring as early as possible, ideally before three months of age, is important for monitoring recovery and identifying potential surgical needs.

**Referrals may be faxed to 919-660-5022 or submitted electronically through Duke MedLink.**

**Once received, a scheduler will contact your patient to schedule an appointment. We appreciate your referral.**

