

# Brachial Plexus Injury

## FACTS:

- This condition is caused by an injury during birth. The nerves and muscles of one side of the neck and arm are severely stretched and may tear.
- It causes weakness or paralysis of the affected arm.
- In some cases the injury will recover in three to six months if the arm is protected from further damage. In many cases the damage may be permanent.
- It affects only one arm and hand. If other parts of body are affected, consider other disorders.
- Children are able to learn activities of daily living using one arm and are of normal intelligence.



**Children with brachial plexus injury are of normal intelligence.**



**In some cases the damage isn't permanent.**

# Brachial Plexus Injury

## TREATMENT:

- **Wrap the infant with his or her weak arm across the upper abdomen and secure with a blanket. This holds the arm in proper position and prevents further injury.**
- **Take care that the infant does not lay on the weak arm.**
- **In an older infant or child, the sleeve of his or her clothing can be pinned across the lower chest.**
- **Moving the arm and hand gently several times a day will prevent it from contracting and being further damaged.**
- **Medical and surgical treatment may help in some cases. Please consult with a doctor familiar with this injury.**



**I can do  
ANYTHING!**



**Medical or surgical  
treatment may be  
needed.**