Higher somatic complaints of unknown origin

Greater physiologic and behavioral responses to pain

Increased prevalence of neurologic deficits

Psychosocial problems

Neurobehavioral disorders

Cognitive deficits

Learning disorders

Poor motor performance

Behavioral problems

Attention deficits

Poor adaptive behavior

Inability to cope with novel situations

Problems with impulsivity and social control

Learning deficits

Emotional temperament changes in infancy or childhood

Accentuated hormonal stress responses in adult life

An experience known as the *windup phenomenon* has been attributed to a decreased pain threshold and chronic pain. Central and peripheral mechanisms that occur in response to noxious tissue injury have been studied in an attempt to explain a prolonged neonatal response to pain characteristic of the windup phenomenon. After exposure to noxious stimuli, multiple levels of the spinal cord experience an altered excitability. This altered excitability may cause nonnoxious stimuli, such as routine nursing care and handling, to be perceived as noxious stimuli. Nurses who