

Erb's Palsy

Erb's palsy is muscle weakness in the arm or shoulder that can occur as a result of an injury sustained during birth or later in life, involving the upper nerves in the brachial plexus.

It's most common in infants who injured their shoulders during delivery.

Symptoms and clinical manifestations

Paralysis or limpness of the shoulder, arm and elbow.

Numbness or tingling in your arm or hand.

A hand position known as 'the waiter's tip' position.

What causes Erb's palsy in newborns?

A newborn may develop Erb's palsy during delivery.

What causes Erb's palsy (brachial plexus injuries) in adults?

Traffic accidents, most often those involving motorcycles

Gunshot or knife wounds

Industrial accidents

Accidents related to contact sports like football

Surgical complications

Tumors

Diagnosis and Tests

Physical examination

Electromyography

Imaging tests

Management and Treatment

Range-of-motion and stretching exercises (Hydrotherapy is recommended) and Botulinum toxin injections for babies within 6 months of birth.

Surgeries for nerve repair and muscle repair in case of poor prognosis.