Fact Sheet :

Dandy-Walker Syndrome

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WESTERN CAPE ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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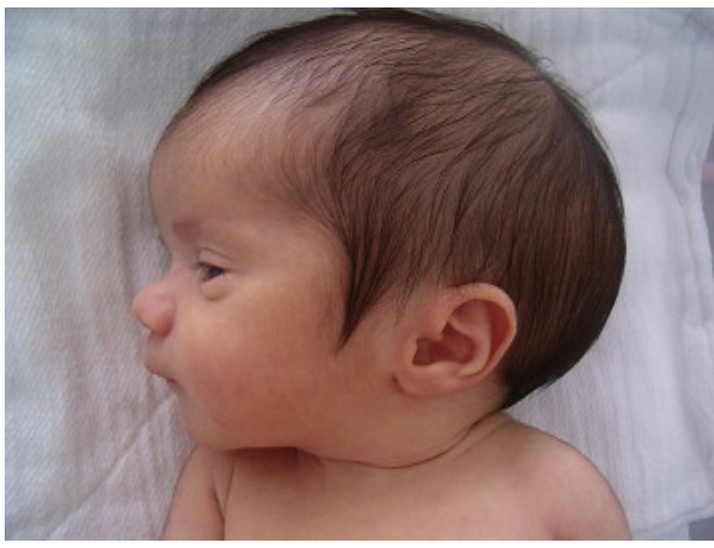
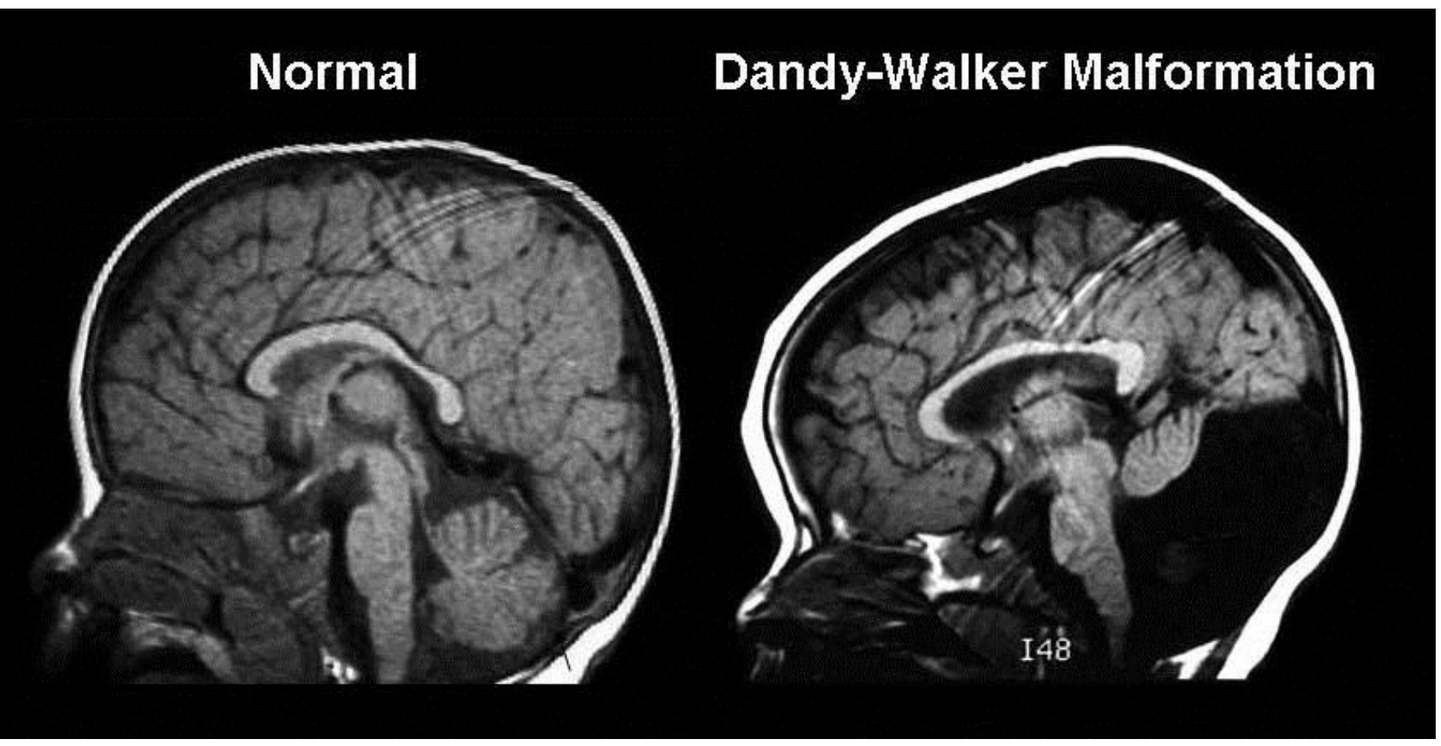
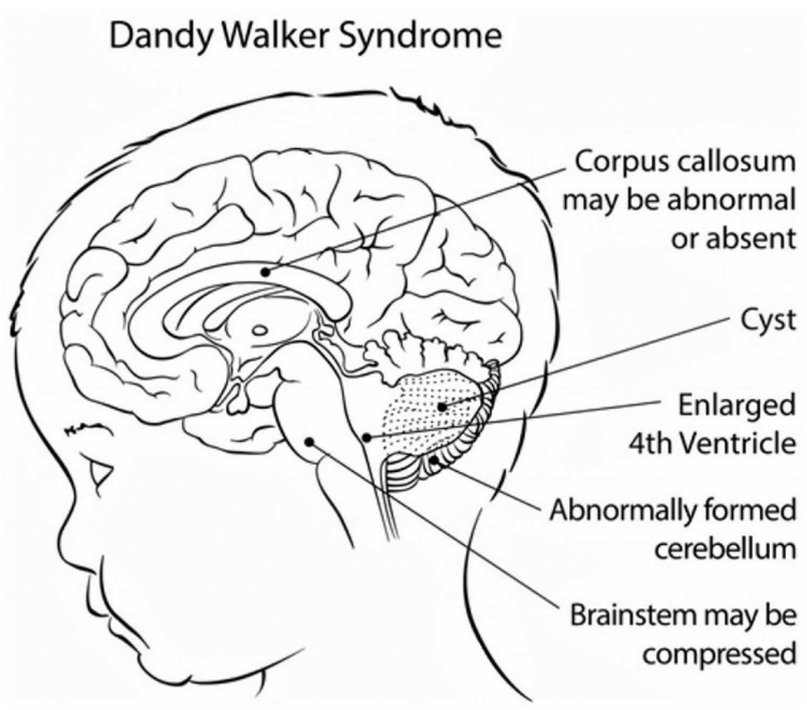
What is Dandy-Walker Syndrome?

Dandy-Walker Syndrome (DWS) is a congenital (happening before birth) condition where the cerebellum does not develop normally. The cerebellum is an area at the back of the brain that controls movement and balance. With DWS, parts of the cerebellum may never develop or may be very small.



Symptoms include developmental delays in motor and language skills such as sitting up, walking and talking, poor muscle tone, poor balance and coordination and sometimes enlarged head circumference and increased pressure within the skull due to hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain).





Prognosis

The effect of Dandy-Walker Syndrome on intellectual development is variable, with some children having normal cognition and others never achieving normal intellectual development even when the excess fluid buildup is treated early and correctly. Longevity depends on the severity of the syndrome and associated malformations. The presence of multiple congenital defects may shorten life span.

Treatment

Treatment for individuals with Dandy-Walker Syndrome generally consists of treating the associated problems, if needed. A surgical procedure called a shunt may be required to drain off excess fluid within the brain, which will reduce pressure inside the skull and improve symptoms.

Treatment may also include various forms of therapy (physical therapy, to help keep muscle strength and flexibility, and occupational therapy, to learn new ways of performing daily activities) as well as specialised education.

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Source : https://www.fetalhealthfoundation.org
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
https://www.ninds.nih.gov/