Cerebral Sinus Venous Thrombosis

WHAT IS CEREBRAL SINUS VENOUS THROMBOSIS?

Cerebral Sinus Venous Thrombosis (CSVT) is a blood clot in the large draining veins of the brain. It can sometimes cause an ischemic stroke or a hemorrhagic stroke, or a combination of these.

WHAT CAUSES THIS?

A CSVT can be associated with dehydration, inflammation, or infection, especially in babies. Sinus infections are the most common cause of CSVTs in children.

Conditions such as autoimmune disease or inherited problems with the blood clotting system (thrombophilia) may be risk factors.

Estrogen containing products such as oral contraceptives can also increase risk.
Cerebral Sinus Venous Thrombosis

WHAT TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE?
Anti-coagulation medications (blood thinners) such as Coumadin or Lovenox are often prescribed after the diagnosis. These medications may be taken orally or by injection, and may be determined by your age.

Blood thinners do not make the clot go away, but prevent the clot from getting bigger. Your body will dissolve the clot itself.

WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FOR THE FUTURE?
If the CSVT does not cause a stroke, children can have a full recovery. If there is a stroke present, the outcome depends on the location of the stroke. This can be discussed further with your doctor.

WHAT OTHER TESTS MAY BE NEEDED?
Your doctor may recommend blood clotting “thrombophilia” and/or autoimmune blood tests to help determine the cause for the CSVT and any risk of recurrent CSVT.

Non-invasive imaging (MRI with MR Venogram, or CT Venogram) is often repeated three months after the diagnosis to ensure the clot has not become larger. The clot may not entirely go away, which is normal.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

Hemophilia & Thrombosis Center at CU Anschutz Medical Campus
Our Clinic specializes in care for pediatric stroke including CSVT. Contact us at the details below or see our website here: medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc.

Pediatric Stroke Parent Support Group
The Colorado Pediatric Stroke Parent Support Group provides programs that offer group support to patients and their families. Go to our website at pedsstrokeosp.ucdenver.edu or email us at strokesupport@ucdenver.edu for more information.

We are located in the CU Medicine Building at the Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center
13199 E. Montview Blvd., Suite 100, Aurora, CO 80045
Office Hours: M-F 8 am-4:30 pm
Scheduler: 303-724-6158
Questions for doctors or nurses: 720-777-6895
Website: medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc

Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUZ MEDICAL CAMPUS
Affiliated with Children’s Hospital Colorado