

# Premature delivery raises odds for cerebral palsy

July 30 2021

---



(HealthDay)—Extremely premature babies have a much higher risk of

cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions than full-term infants, a large Israeli study affirms.

Cerebral palsy—the name for a group of lifelong conditions that affect movement and coordination—is the most common cause of severe childhood physical disability and motor impairment. It can also affect sensation, perception, thinking, communication and behavior.

"Extremely premature exposure to the environment outside of the uterus may alter musculoskeletal and nervous system development, and shift the trajectory of motor development for otherwise healthy children," study co-author Dr. Eyal Sheiner said in a news release from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer-Sheva, Israel. He is vice dean for academic promotion at the university and is also director of obstetrics and gynecology at Soroka University Medical Center in Beer-Sheva.

For this study, Sheiner and his colleagues examined the outcomes of more than 220,500 deliveries over 23 years.

They found that babies born before 25 weeks' gestation had four times the risk of developing long-term neurological issues and significantly higher rates of [cerebral palsy](#).

Each additional week in the womb up to 37 weeks was linked to a decrease in the risk of long-term neurological problems, the researchers said.

The findings were recently published in the [Journal of Clinical Medicine](#)

.

"Neurological disorders that stem from premature births are devastating," said Doug Seserman, chief executive officer of Americans for Ben-Gurion University, which supported the research.

**More information:** The March of Dimes has more on [cerebral palsy](#).

Copyright © 2021 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Premature delivery raises odds for cerebral palsy (2021, July 30) retrieved 14 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-07-premature-delivery-odds-cerebral-palsy.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.