



Cranial Remolding

A growing number of physicians are recommending, and parents are discovering and utilizing the comprehensive Children's Care Cranial Remolding Program.

Why cranial remolding?

More babies today have misshapen heads. The condition, known as deformational or positional plagiocephaly, is often attributed to a baby spending many more hours lying on their backs due to greater use of infant carriers, car seats, baby swings, and the American Academy of Pediatrician's 'Back-to-Sleep' campaign. A baby's soft skull can develop flat spots due to the increased external pressure.

Birth trauma, prematurity, cramped intrauterine space prevalent in multiple births, and other abnormalities can also cause the condition.

Deformational plagiocephaly is more than a cosmetic issue. Recent studies suggest that if ignored, the condition can contribute to physical and emotional problems later in life. Moderate to severe facial asymmetry can impact eye socket and ear canal shapes during the crucial early stages of a child's development. Looking different from their peers can stigmatize children, causing emotional issues.

Evaluation and treatment

Cranial remolding is a painless orthotic process that can round out an infant's head. Children's Care's cranial remolding team provides a full-treatment program:

- Children's Care provides free evaluations of a baby's head shape based on standardized measurements and using a state-of-the-art, FDA-approved scanner with an eye-safe laser. The scanner's eight cameras create a three-dimensional image of the child's cranium.
- A number of children are measured and monitored monthly. If asymmetry is identified, the team of specialists works with parents to utilize activities that will build muscles which can help form a more normal-shaped head.
- Infants whose head shapes do not improve sufficiently after repositioning and stretching exercises may be candidates for a Cranial Remolding Orthosis (CRO)—an FDA-approved helmet-like device custom-fit to the child and worn several hours a day for three to four months.
- The Children's Care team communicates with a child's physician throughout the program.

The Children's Care Cranial Remolding Program fits a large number of children with helmets each year, all achieving some level of improvement. The program has a 98.7% patient-satisfaction rating.

For more information, please call Children's Care at 605-782-2300 or e-mail us at info@cchs.org.