

Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH)

This leaflet is to be used in conjunction with the 'Steps' Charity leaflet titled 'Caring for Your Child in a Pavlik Harness – The Parents' Guide':

[Pavlik-Harness.pdf \(stgeorges.nhs.uk\)](https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/Pavlik-Harness.pdf)

If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to the staff member in charge of your child's care.

What treatments are available?

If your baby's scan has shown they have DDH of one or both hips they will be referred to the specialist physiotherapy team. A physiotherapist will contact you by telephone and arrange an appointment in clinic within five working days of receipt of the referral.

The physiotherapist will talk to you on the telephone to explain an overview of what to expect at the appointment but in brief we will do the following:

- Full assessment of your baby
- Education on what DDH is and the treatment pathway
- Pavlik Harness application
- Education on caring for your baby in Pavlik harness (including cleaning, how to position and handle your baby, etc).

Things to bring to the appointment:

- Larger clothes (1-2 size up, avoiding tights and trousers if possible)
- Baby carrier / sling (if you have one)
- Blanket.

Your baby will be seen in clinic on a regular basis, initially weekly and then fortnightly, until the harness is ready to be removed. Time in harness varies depending on how the hips develop but on average is between 6-12 weeks.

What happens if my baby does not get treatment?

The hip will likely not develop normally causing it to become more unstable and grow abnormally. This could result in early arthritis and difficulty walking as well as pain later. Surgical management involving the soft tissues and / or bones may be required.

Is there anything I can do to help my baby?

While awaiting the initial appointment, please continue to move and handle your baby as you have been - you will not hurt them or worsen their hips in any way. However, there are a few things you can do to help as outlined below:

- Avoid swaddling your baby's legs, as the best position for hip development is in a frog position.
- Do not lie your baby on their side for prolonged periods.
- Start to or continue to complete supervised tummy time at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Encourage floor play on their back and tummy (use baby bouncers and car seats as little as possible)
- Using a baby carrier / sling can help hips develop, provided thighs are supported well, knees are at the same height or higher than the bottom and baby's legs spread around the adult's torso (see image below).

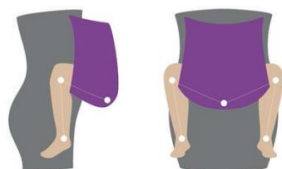


Image from STEPS 'Baby Hip Health'

Useful sources of information

If you would like further information about Baby Hip Health and DDH, please visit STEPS Charity website at: www.stepsworldwide.org/conditions/hip-dysplasia-ddh

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about immature hips, please contact the Children's Physiotherapy Team via email at DDHPhysio@stgeorges.nhs.uk.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or care. You can contact the PALS team on the advisory telephone line Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

A Walk-in service is available:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm and Friday between 10am and 2pm.

The Walk-in and Advisory telephone services are closed on Wednesdays.

Please contact PALS in advance to check if there are any changes to opening times.

PALS is based within the hospital in the ground floor main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings.

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS UK

The NHS provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



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