

BIRTH INJURIES

Examples, Causes and Risk Factors

A birth injury is any physical harm suffered by a newborn before, during or after a birth.

EVERY YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES, THERE ARE NEARLY

4 MILLION BIRTHS

ABOUT 1.7% OF THESE BIRTHS INVOLVE SOME FORM OF BIRTH INJURY.

COMMON TYPES OF BIRTH INJURIES

1. FRACTURES

2. NERVE DAMAGE

3. SOFT-TISSUE DAMAGE

4. BRAIN DAMAGE

5. SPINAL CORD INJURY

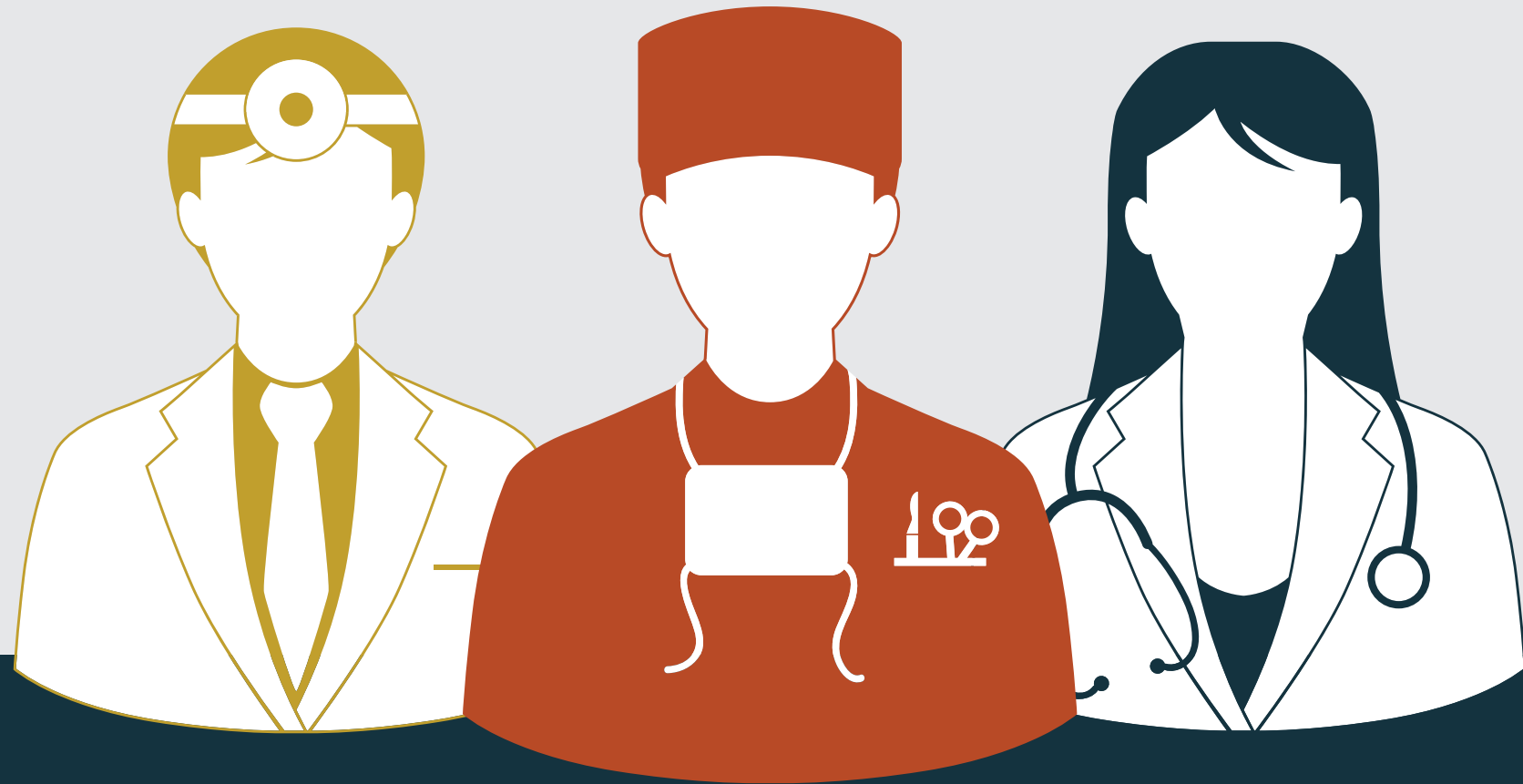
6. BRACHIAL PLEXUS PALSY

7. CEREBRAL PALSY

Nearly one-half of all birth-related traumas can be avoided by identifying and addressing potential risk factors. Birth injury risk factors include:



- Abnormal size or weight of mother or child
- Advanced maternal age
- Any pre-existing conditions of the mother
- Unusual positioning of the fetus
- The use of anesthetic during birth
- Births requiring the use of forceps
- Loss of Oxygen
- Excessive Bleeding



WHEN NEGLIGENCE IS THE CAUSE OF BIRTH INJURIES

- Failing to identify clear risks to mother and/or child
- Failing to act quickly after complications arise
- Misusing medical tools, instruments or equipment
- Administering or failure to administer medications to the mother

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Sources:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17408101>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/births.htm>

<http://www.uptodate.com/contents/neonatal-birth-injuries>

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/980112-overview>

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