

# THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED CHILD



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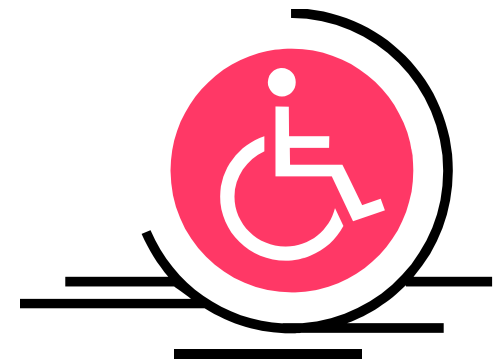
# Children with special needs

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- Mental handicap
- **Physical handicap**
- Learning disorders
- Emotional problems
- Behavior problems

# The handicapped child

- International Classification of Function, Disability and Health (ICF)
  - ▣ Impairment:  
Pathological process
    - *Spina bifida*
  - ▣ Activity limitations (Disability)  
Consequence of the impairment
    - *Can not walk because of the paraplegia due to spina bifida*
  - ▣ Barriers to participation (Handicap)  
The way in which the person **responds** to his impairment or disability
    - *Independent in a wheelchair*



# Prevalence

- 85% of the disabled children in developing countries
- An average community:
  - ▣ 8% of children <10 years

# Prevalence

- Behavior problems: 70/1000
- Mental handicap: 20-30/1000 (Mild)
- **Physical handicap:**
  - **CP** 2-5/1000
  - **Spina bifida** 1-6/1000
  - **Blindness** 2/1000
  - **Deafness** 1.5/1000
  - **Speech problems** 1/1000

# Classification of physical disabilities

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- Sensory handicaps
  - ▣ Vision
  - ▣ Hearing and speech

# Classification of physical disabilities

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- Neuromuscular
  - Muscle disorders
  - Cerebral palsy
  - Spina Bifida

# Classification of physical disabilities

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- Other systems
  - ▣ Cardiac problem
  - ▣ Chronic renal failure
  - ▣ Respiratory diseases
  - ▣ Endocrine e.g. DM
  - ▣ Oncology



# Aetiology

## □ Prenatal factors

- Hereditary conditions
- Infections
- Environmental factors
- Mother's health

## □ Perinatal factors

- Birth
- Infections
- ICU
- Drug exposure

## □ Postnatal factors

- Infections
- Toxins
- Nutrition

# Diagnosis

## □ Why?

- Risk of recurrence
- Content of counseling
- Management protocol

## □ How?

- History and Family tree
- Physical examination
- Available diagnostic techniques
  - CT Scan / MRI
  - Muscle enzymes
  - EMG
  - Muscle biopsy
  - Biochemistry
  - Sonar

# Referral

- Why?
  - ▣ Diagnosis
  - ▣ Assessment
    - Hearing
    - Vision
    - Level of functioning is essential
      - Gross motor function
      - Fine motor function
      - Speech and language development
      - Psychosocial development
      - Intellectual and perceptual functioning
    - Other medical related problems
      - See CP lecture

# Referral

- ▣ To Whom?

- Team



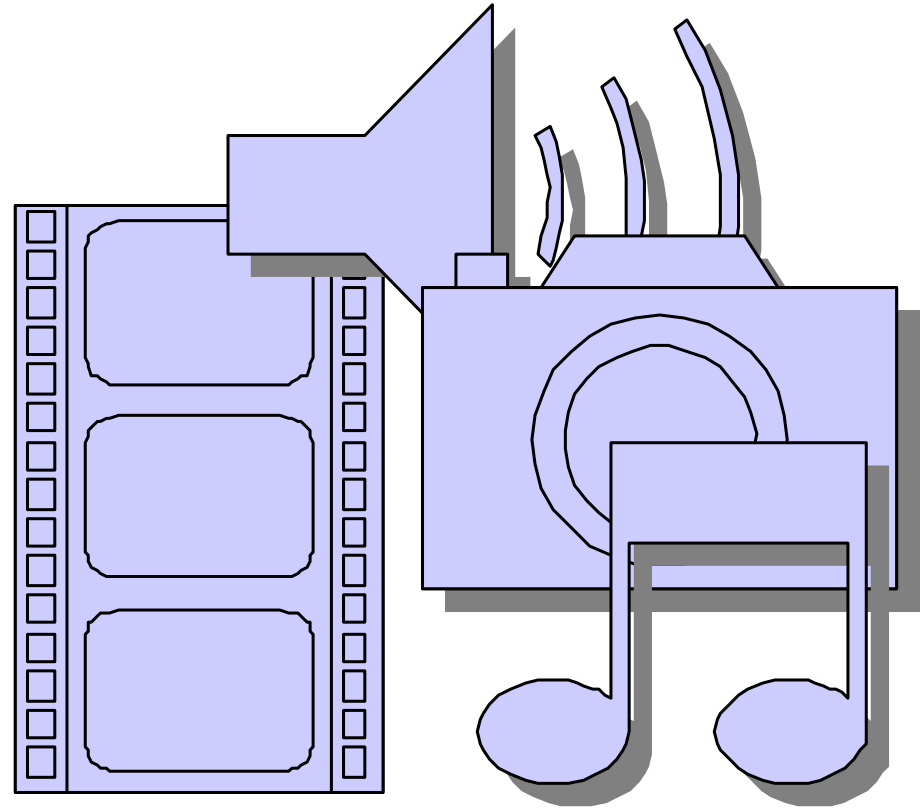
# Team

- Doctor with special interest
- Speech therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Social worker
- Psychologist
- Dietician



# Hearing impairment

- Neonatal screening
- Early diagnosis
  - ▣ Ideal before 3 months
  - ▣ Not later than 6 months
- Listen to the parents
- High index of suspicion
- Communication development
- Evaluate hearing with rattle
- ABR
- OAE



# Visual impairment

- Clinical picture
  - ▣ Nystagmus
  - ▣ Strabismus
  - ▣ Clumsiness
  - ▣ Does not reach out
  - ▣ Does not fixate at 4 months
  - ▣ Photophobia
  - ▣ Rubbing of eyes
  - ▣ Regression in school work

# Visual impairment

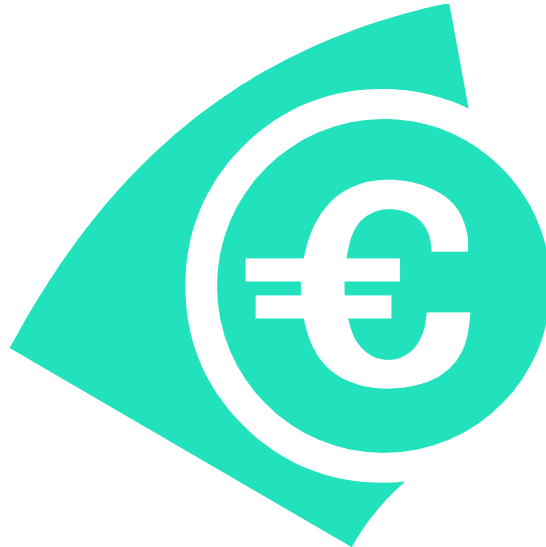
- Fundoscopy
- Pictures
- Snellen charts
- Refer
- ERG
- VEP





# Impact

- Emotional
  - Child with disability
  - Marital stress
  - Siblings
- Social
  - Isolation / Rejection
- Financial
  - Special care / School
  - Medication
  - Devices



# Social support

- Therapist
- Doctor
- Family
  - ▣ Parents
  - ▣ Siblings
  - ▣ Extended family
- Community
- Support groups e.g.
  - ▣ Downs syndrome
  - ▣ MDF
- Institutions / Homes

# Late presentation

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- Lack of knowledge
  - ▣ parents
  - ▣ professionals
- Denial
- Fear