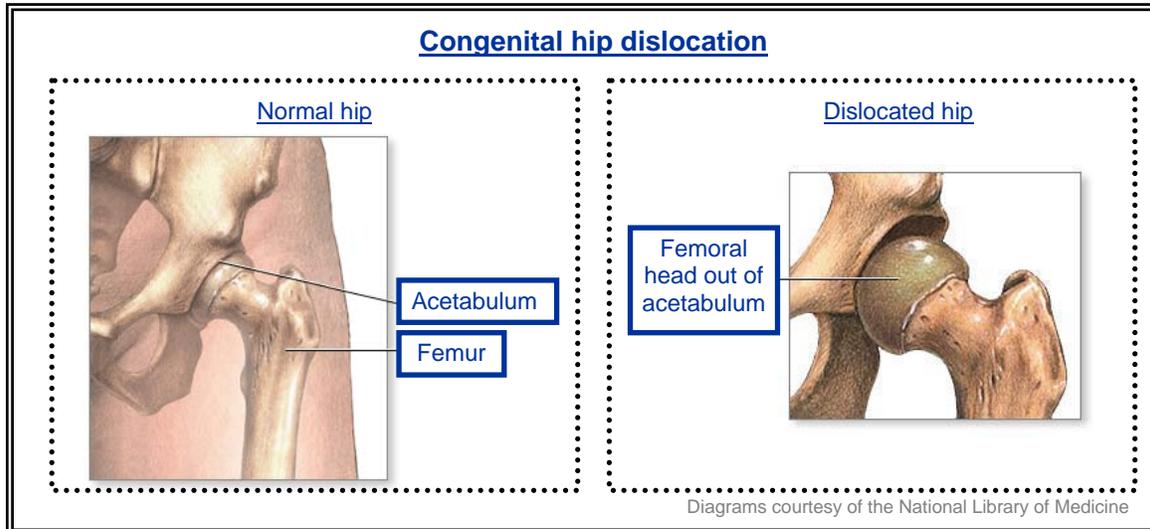


# Congenital Hip Dislocation

## What is a congenital hip dislocation?

A congenital hip dislocation is an abnormal formation of the **hip joint** that is present at birth. Children with congenital hip dislocations may have instability of the hip, since the **femoral head** (top of the **femur**, or thighbone) does not fit tightly into the **acetabulum** (socket). The ligaments of the hip joint may also be loose. Children with congenital hip dislocation may have legs of different lengths and/or decreased movement on one leg.



## What causes congenital hip dislocation?

The exact cause of congenital hip dislocation is not known. Some families have been reported to have a **hereditary** form of congenital hip dislocation (meaning multiple family members are affected). Congenital hip dislocation is more common in girls and babies born in the **breech position** (feet first); the left hip is also more often involved than the right hip.

## How is congenital hip dislocation treated?

Shortly after birth, babies with congenital hip dislocation may be fitted with a device to help hold the hip in place. Surgery may be necessary if the dislocation is diagnosed at an older age or if earlier treatment options did not work. Left untreated, congenital hip dislocation may lead to problems with walking or activity, as well as pain and arthritis (inflammation of the hip joint) by early adulthood. Your child's doctor(s) will discuss appropriate treatment options with you.

## For more information

About.com ADAM Healthcare Center -

<http://adam.about.com/encyclopedia/infectiousdiseases/Developmental-dysplasia-of-the-hip.htm>

MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000971.htm>

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