

# CONQUER CHIARI®

*From Knowledge, Strength. Through Research, Hope.*

## *Very Young Children*

A surgical team from Northwestern University in Chicago reported on their experiences in surgically treating very young children with Chiari. According to a national pediatric database, most Chiari cases in children occur between the ages of 5-15; however, symptomatic Chiari is also seen, less frequently, in infants and toddlers. Specifically, these clinicians surgically treated 16 children under the age of 3 over a 7-year span, and followed them for a minimum of 3 years. Symptomatically, 75% (12) showed pre-verbal signs of headache, such as inconsolable crying, head grabbing, and back arching. Throat and airway issues were also very common, with 10 children experiencing symptoms such as vomiting, choking, gagging, sleep apnea, and vocal cord paralysis. MRIs showed the average tonsillar descent was a sizable 9.8mm. Two of the children had hydrocephalus, but only one had syringomyelia. Unfortunately, the initial surgical success rate was not that great. While all the young patients showed initial improvement, nearly half (7) had symptoms come back and required a second surgery. Interestingly, whether the dura was fully opened during the first operation was not statistically linked to whether additional surgery was required.

**SOURCE:** *Chiari type I malformation of infants and toddlers. Grahovac G, Pundy T, Tomita T. Childs Nerv Syst. 2018 Feb 2.*

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