



# Congenital amputation

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A congenital amputation means a limb is not formed correctly or is missing at birth. This happens while the limb is being formed in the womb.

It is often:

- Not genetic, meaning passed from parent to child
- Not because of anything you did or did not do before your baby was born

Congenital amputations may include one or more of the following:

- Different limb lengths
- Poor joint function
- Weak muscles
- Fragile skin



## How is it treated?

Our Limb Deficiency Program can help your child reach his potential.

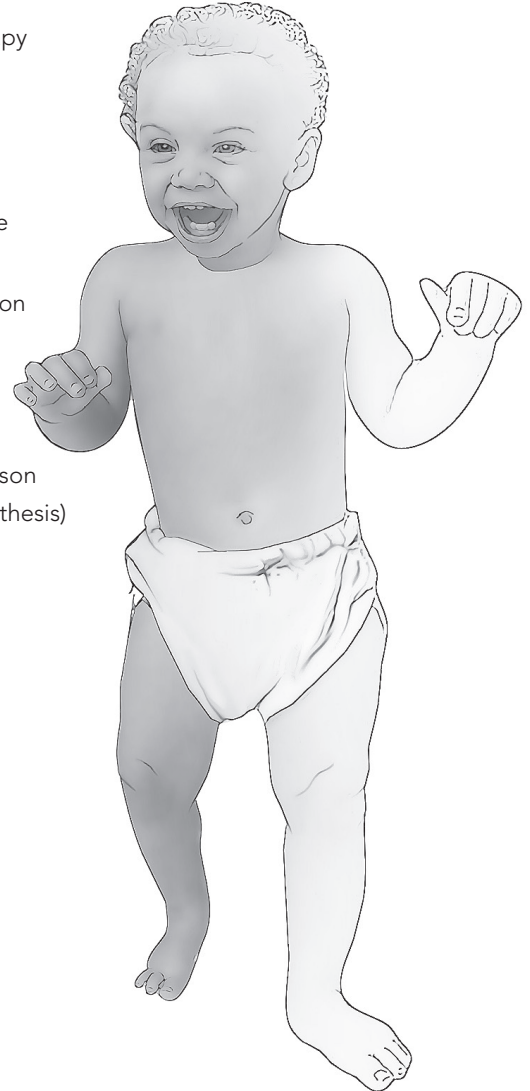
Your child's treatment should start as soon as his condition is diagnosed.

Our team will work with you to make a treatment plan just for your child. It may include one or more of the following:

- Watching your child's progress
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Surgery
- Fitting a prosthesis (artificial limb)

Your child's healthcare team may include:

- Orthopaedic surgeon
- Plastic surgeon
- Rehab doctor
- Physical therapist
- Prosthetist (the person who make the prosthesis)



### Is surgery needed?

It is only needed when it can improve your child's movement or function.

### Is a prosthesis needed?

It is only needed if it will improve your child's movement or function.

- It acts like a hand or leg for your child.
- It helps your child get back to being active

### How long before my child can get a prosthesis?

For the lower body:

- Your child will get one before he tries to walk.
- This can help him keep up with children his same age.

For the upper body:

- Your child will get one when he is learning to sit.
- The fitting is done about two months after the amputation if your child needs surgery before getting the prosthesis.



Visit [choa.org/limbdeficiency](https://choa.org/limbdeficiency) to learn more about the **Children's Limb Deficiency Program**.