

Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Abnormal/atypical	Deviating from the typical expectation.
Adenotonsillar hypertrophy	Enlarged tonsils and adenoids.
Anesthesiologist	A medical professional who specializes in the evaluation, care, and monitoring during, before, and after surgery while delivering anesthesia.
Ankylosis	Immobility and fusion of a joint; leads to stiffness and rigidity in the joint.
Anterior	Near the front, or front side.
Anterior plagiocephaly	A skewed head shape in which the head is flat on one side typically seen with unicoronal craniosynostosis.
Aortic coarctation	A narrowing of the main vessel in the heart.
Assisted ventilation	The use of an external device to help a person breathe; may be invasive or noninvasive.
Brachycephaly	A short and wide head shape typically seen with bicoronal craniosynostosis.
Brachydactyly	A condition in which fingers and toes are shorter than typical.
Broadening	Becoming larger in distance from side to side; widening.
Cerebrospinal fluid leak	A leak of fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal canal.
Chiari malformation	A condition in which the brain tissue extends into the spinal canal instead of staying within the skull.
Cleft palate	An opening or split in the roof of the mouth.

Clinodactyly	A condition in which fingers are bent or curved.
Congenital	Referring to a condition that is present from birth.
Congenital muscular torticollis (CMT)	The persistent shortening of one of the sternocleidomastoid muscles. When described as “congenital,” it means this condition is present from birth.
Corneal damage	Damage to the cornea, a transparent layer on the front surface of the eye, which may cause vision impairment or loss.
Cranial	Relating to the skull.
Cranial (cephalic) index (CI)	The maximum width of the skull divided by the maximum length of the skull; expressed as a percentage.
Cranial vault	The space that encases and protects the brain.
Deformational plagiocephaly	An abnormal head shape that develops from external pressure on the skull bones, typically from positioning; also called “positional” or “occipital” plagiocephaly.
Deformity	A malformed or misshapen part of the body.
De novo	A Latin term meaning “from the beginning,” “new”; a <i>de novo</i> gene mutation occurs for the first time in a child, but not in either parent.
Dental crowding	The overlapping or misalignment of teeth.
Ectopic teeth	Teeth outside the typical position.
Embryo	A developing human from conception up to the end of the eighth week after conception.
Endoscopic approach	A procedure using special instruments that allow the surgeon to work through small incisions.
Epicanthal fold	A skinfold of the upper eyelid that covers the inner corner of the eye.
Epilepsy	A neurological disorder in which brain activity becomes abnormal, causing seizures or periods of unusual behavior, sensations, and sometimes loss of awareness. See <i>seizure</i> .

Eruption of teeth	The process of teeth pushing through the gums into the mouth.
Fetus	A developing human from the eighth week after conception to birth.
Fontanel	An open spot (often called a “soft spot”) in an infant’s skull where the corners of the skull bones meet. Fontanels occur at the junction of the sutures and most close within the first two years of life. See <i>suture</i> .
Fusion	The process of joining two or more things together to form one.
Gastrostomy tube (G-tube)	A device that is surgically inserted into the stomach; can be used to deliver nutrition; also called a PEG tube.
Gene	The basic unit of heredity that is transferred from parent to offspring.
Genetic	Referring to genes or heredity.
Health-related quality of life (HRQOL)	The way in which a condition affects a person’s well-being.
Helical folds	Folds of the external ear.
High-arched palate	A narrow, tall roof of the mouth. See <i>palate</i> .
Hydrocephalus	A condition in which there is a buildup of cerebrospinal fluid in cavities (ventricles) in the brain.
Hypertelorism	Spacing between the eyes that is wider than typical.
Hypotelorism	Spacing between the eyes that is narrower than typical.
Infant	A child from birth to one year of age.
Intracranial pressure (ICP)	The measure of pressure inside the skull.
Jejunostomy tube (J-tube)	A device inserted into a section of the small intestine; can be used to deliver nutrition.
Lateral	Away from the midline (or middle of the body), referring to the side.
Maxillary hypoplasia	Underdevelopment of the upper jaw.

Midface hypoplasia	Underdevelopment of the middle of the face, causing the upper jaw, cheekbones, and eye sockets to appear sunken.
Morbidity rate	The measure of the number of temporary or permanent disabilities that occur due to a specific illness or condition.
Mortality rate	The measure of the number of deaths that occur due to a specific illness or condition.
Multidisciplinary	Coordinated treatment by medical professionals from a number of disciplines.
Multisuture CS	Craniosynostosis that involves the premature fusion of more than one suture. See <i>suture</i> .
Nasal root deviation	Atypical alignment of the top of the nose where the nasal bones meet the frontal bones; the nose deviates toward the fused suture.
Nasogastric tube (NG tube)	A device inserted through the nose and into the stomach; can be used to deliver nutrition.
Nasolacrimal duct stenosis	Blocked or narrowed (stenosis) eye duct; a condition of the eyes that causes decreased tear production and may lead to increased eye infections.
Nasopharyngeal airway device	A device inserted into the nose to create an open path for airflow when the airway space is constricted.
Neuropsychological testing	Individualized assessment of the skills and abilities linked to coordinated brain function, such as memory, cognition, perception, problem-solving, and verbal abilities and how they relate to behavior.
Newborn	A child from birth to four weeks.
Noninvasive ventilation	A type of assisted ventilation that delivers pressure into the lungs using a device such as a CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machine or a BiPAP (bilevel positive airway pressure) machine. “Noninvasive” refers to the method used to administer the ventilation through the nose or mouth, rather than directly into the airway, as occurs with invasive ventilation. See <i>assistive ventilation</i> .
Nonsyndromic	An isolated condition, not part of a syndrome.

Normocephaly	Normal head structure.
Nurse practitioner	A registered nurse with advanced training, able to provide assessment, diagnosis, and treatment along with preventive health maintenance.
Obstructive sleep apnea	A disorder in which a person frequently stops breathing during their sleep.
Occipital	Referring to being situated in the back of the head; the back of the head or skull.
Ophthalmologist	A medical professional who specializes in the care of the eyes.
Orthodontist	A medical professional who specializes in the care of teeth and jaw alignment.
Orthosis	A device designed to hold specific body parts in position to modify their structure and/or function; also called a brace.
Ossification	The process of turning material into bone.
Otitis media	An inflammation of the middle ear. Otitis media with effusion is a collection of fluid in the middle ear in the absence of an ear infection.
Otolaryngologist	A medical professional who specializes in the care of the ears, nose, and throat.
Palate	The roof of the mouth; it separates the mouth from the nasal cavity.
Papilledema	A swelling of the optic nerve in the eye due to increased intracranial pressure. See <i>intracranial pressure</i> .
Patent ductus arteriosus	A condition in which a hole is present in the main vessel of the heart at birth.
Pathologic	Referring to the involvement, cause, or nature of a condition.
Peritoneal cavity	A space in the abdominal area, not occupied by abdominal organs; used as an emptying space for a VP shunt. See <i>ventriculoperitoneal shunt</i> .

Physician assistant	A medical professional licensed to practice medicine in every specialty and setting in the United States and other jurisdictions. Physician assistants require graduate schooling, have greater medical privileges than nurses, and work alongside a supervising physician.
Posterior	Near the back, or back side.
Posterior plagiocephaly	A skewed head shape in which the head is flat on one side or on the back of the head typically seen with lambdoid craniosynostosis or deformational plagiocephaly.
Premature	Referring to something occurring too early or before the usual or proper time.
Prevalence	The proportion of the population who have a particular disease or attribute at a specified point in time or over a specified period of time.
Proptosis	A condition in which the eyes appear to be bulging; also called “exorbitism” or “exophthalmos.”
Ptosis	A condition of one or both of the upper eyelids drooping over the eye.
Risk factor	An aspect of personal behavior or lifestyle, an environmental exposure, or a hereditary characteristic that is associated with an increase in the occurrence of a particular disease, injury, or other health condition.
Scaphocephaly	A classification of CS characterized by a boat-shaped head typically seen with sagittal craniosynostosis.
Sedation	The administration of medications to produce a state of calm or sleep.
Seizure	A sudden, uncontrolled, abnormal burst of electrical activity in the brain that may cause changes in the level of consciousness, behavior, memory, or feelings.
Sensorineural hearing loss	Hearing loss that occurs due to damage to the inner ear, impacting low frequency (deep, low-pitched) sounds the most.
Septum	The partition between the nostrils.

Single suture CS	Craniosynostosis that involves the premature fusion of one suture. See <i>fusion</i> .
Strabismus	Atypical alignment of the eyes, often appearing as crossed eyes.
Stroke	A condition when a blood vessel in the brain is either blocked or ruptured.
Superior	Situated above; looking down from above.
Supraorbital rim	The bony ridge above the eye sockets; makes up the brow bone, located at the bottom edge of the frontal bone
Suture	The immovable junction between two bones; cranial sutures are fibrous joints that connect the bones of the skull. (Not to be confused with stitches, which are also called sutures.)
Symphalangism	Stiffness of joints due to ankylosis. See <i>ankylosis</i> .
Syndactyly	The union of two or more fingers or toes, also termed “webbing”; may include bony fusion of adjacent digits. When the union is incomplete (digits are not fully conjoined or joined only by skin instead of bone), it is referred to as partial syndactyly. See <i>fusion</i> .
Syndrome	A group of characteristics and findings that consistently occur together and indicate a specific condition.
Syndromic	Referring to a characteristic that occurs as part of a syndrome.
Synostosis	The union or fusion of two or more separate bones to form a single bone. See <i>fusion</i> .
Tracheal cartilaginous sleeve (TCS)	A malformation where the typical rings of cartilage in the trachea are replaced with a sleeve of cartilage.
Tracheostomy	A medical procedure that involves creating an opening in the neck and placing a tube in the trachea to allow the passage of air.
Trigonocephaly	A classification of CS characterized by a triangular-shaped head typically seen with metopic craniosynostosis.

Tube feeding	A method of delivering liquid nutrition through a plastic tube that has been placed in the stomach or small intestine.
Turribrachycephaly	A classification of CS characterized by a tower or cone-shaped head with flat, prominent, elongated forehead and temporal widening on both sides along with occipital flattening typically seen with various forms of syndromic craniosynostosis.
Ventriculomegaly	A condition characterized by enlarged ventricles in the brain.
Ventriculoperitoneal shunt (VP shunt)	A device inserted into the ventricles of the brain; the shunt tubing (catheter) drains the cerebrospinal fluid from the ventricles and transports it to a reservoir where it is stored and then pumped to the peritoneal cavity (a space within the abdominal area not occupied by the abdominal organs). There, the fluid is absorbed by the body.
Vertebrae	The bones that form the spine.