

Study Updates:

- We have enrolled **400** very premature infants!
- Completed **390** MRIs
- Performed **344** GMA and HINES (3 month appt)
- Completed **75** Bayley tests (2 yr testing)

Why is Developmental Follow-up so Important?

Four in every 10 very premature babies exhibit motor, learning or behavioral problems as they grow. Unfortunately, signs of these problems often do not show up until 2 to 5 years of age. Three in every 10 babies with a normal MRI go on to have developmental disabilities. For these reasons, the standardized testing that is offered in the High-Risk Follow-up Clinic at Children's (at age 2 years corrected age) and through our Early Prediction Study (age 3 years corrected age) is so critical. It can result in detection of concerns far earlier than observed by pediatricians or parents. As with the MRI and 3 month visits, we will reimburse you for your time and travel.



Which Developmental Tests are performed at 2 Years Corrected Age?

1) Cognitive (learning), language, and motor function assessments using the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development standardized test.

2) Standardized neurologic exam to rule in or rule out diagnosis of cerebral palsy.

3) Parent questionnaires to assess their infant's behavior.

All testing at this age is already part of routine clinical care for infants born before 32 weeks gestational age.

Testing duration: approximately 2 hours.

Which Developmental Tests are performed at 3 Years Corrected Age?

1) Standardized early assessment of the child's strengths and weaknesses in learning (especially higher-order concepts), language, and math skills.

2) Standardized early assessment of the child's readiness for school.

3) Parent questionnaires to assess their child's behavior, adaptive learning, and quality of life.

All testing at this age is a benefit we only offer to Early Prediction Study participants. This will allow us to determine your child's strengths and weaknesses and readiness for school, allowing us to detect and address any delays abnormalities early. Testing duration: approximately 2 hours.

Team Member Spotlight:

Nehal A. Parikh, DO, MS
Principal Investigator

Nehal received his medical degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of NYIT, Clinical Research master's degree from The University of Texas Houston Medical School and Neonatology training from Thomas Jefferson University. He is passionate about diagnosis and treatment of neurodevelopmental disabilities in high-risk newborns. His past and current research has helped develop advanced brain imaging methods in infants and risk prediction models for early detection of cerebral palsy and learning and behavioral problems and clinical trials to treat these disabilities. This work has been generously funded through NIH and institutional funding for the past 15 years. NIH funding 3 years ago allowed him to design and assemble a team to execute the Early Prediction Study, the largest study of advanced MRI in preterm infants. Nehal lives in Cincinnati with his wife and two teenagers.



What is the purpose of administering multiple questionnaires over the course of the study?

The purpose of the various questionnaires is to gather information about you and your child so that we may analyze this data and correlate it with study results. As with all study results, these questionnaires are kept confidential. By completing these questionnaires, you can potentially help future families!



Lab Members

Front row: Ming Chen, MS, Priyanka Illapani, MS, Fatima Khalid, BS, Krishna Patel, Donna Wuest;

Back row: Hailong Li, PhD, Nehal Parikh, DO, MS, Lili He, PhD, Milan Parikh, Matthew Bugada, Julia Kline, PhD, Kari Tepe, BSN, Karen Harpster, PhD, OT/RL, Brianne Georg, BS, Ved Mehta

Have Questions?

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact our study coordinator, Brianne Georg at 513-803-3247 or Brianne.georg@cchmc.org.

If your contact information has changed, please respond to this e-mail and keep us updated. **You will receive \$25 for updating your change of address.**