



NewYork-Presbyterian Phyllis and David Komansky Center for Children's Health

Pediatric **Brain and Spine Center**



The Misshapen Head in Infancy

Samuel Rhee, MD **Recent Director, Craniofacial Surgery Program Department of Surgery** Weill Cornell Medical College New York-Presbyterian Medical Center

Evaluation of head shape







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The "Outside" Perspective

- Initial assessment of patient
- Craniosynostosis vs. Positional head deformity
- Surgical correction of craniosynostosis
 - Minimally Invasive or Endoscopic surgery



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Timing of cranial suture closure





Examination of the infant skull



Hummel P, Fortado D. Impacting infant head shapes. Adv Neonatal Care. 2005 Dec;5(6):329-40.



Conditions affecting sutures









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Craniosynostosis vs. PHD

- Clinical diagnosis
 - Can be difficult even for experienced clinicians
- Imaging studies
 - Plain radiographs unless neurologic concerns





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Positional head deformity

True lambdoid synostosis

Anatomic Feature	Synostotic	Deformational
Ipsilateral superior orbital rim	Up	Down
Ipsilateral ear	Anterior and high	Posterior and low
Nasal root	Ipsilateral	Midline
Ipsilateral cheek	Forward	Backward





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Treatment of torticollis



Hummel P, Fortado D. Impacting infant head shapes. Adv Neonatal Care. 2005 Dec;5(6):329-40.





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Treatment of PHD







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Assessment with imaging







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Assessment with imaging







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CT scans





Radiation exposure

EXAM TYPE	RELEVANT ORGAN	DOSE (mSv)
Pediatric Head CT Unadjusted Settings (200 mAs, neonate)	Brain	60
Pediatric Head CT Adjusted Settings (100 mAs, neonate)	Brain	30
Pediatric Abdominal CT Unadjusted Settings (200 mAs, neonate)	Stomach	25
Pediatric Abdominal CT Adjusted Settings (50 mAs, neonate)	Stomach	6
Chest X-ray (PA/lateral)	Lung	0.01/0.15
Screening Mammogram	Breast	3





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Craniosynostosis

- Premature fusion of cranial sutures
- Compensatory growth in other sutures (Virchow's Law)





Craniosynostosis



Neurodevelopment of children with single suture craniosynostosis: a review. Kapp-Simon KA, Speltz ML, Cunningham ML, Patel PK, Tomita T. Childs Nerv Syst. 2007 Mar;23(3):269-81. Epub 2006 Dec 21



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Syndromic craniosynostosis









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Genetic identification





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Craniosynostosis -Presentation

- Usually clinical identification
- Irregular head shape that worsens
- Ridging along sutures
- Falling off head circumference growth curve
- Later increased ICP signs
 - Irritability/vomiting
 - Papilledema







Untreated craniosynostosis







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Sagittal Synostosis

- Most common type
- Male to Female 4:1
- AP length
- 🗸 👃 Width





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Craniosynostosis - surgery







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Craniosynostosis - surgery





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Sagittal synostosis







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Sagittal synostosis





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Sagittal synostosis







Bilateral Coronal Synostosis

- Decrease A-P dimension
- Increase height (turricephaly)
- Common syndromic example
 - Crouzon
 - Apert





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Unilateral Coronal Synostosis

 Flatten, elongated ipsilateral forehead
Contralateral bossing
Harlequin orbit





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Metopic Synostosis

Characteristic keel shaped deformity **Receded superior** orbital rims **Bitemporal narrowing** Hypotelorbitism Uncommon (<10%)





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Intraoperative









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Postoperative





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Minimally invasive surgery



Endoscopic approach to coronal craniosynostosis. Barone CM, David F. Jimenez DF, Clin Plastic Surg 31 (2004) 415–422.



Summary

- Positional head deformity
 - May be difficult to distinguish from synostosis
 - Conservative management & PT, helmet optional
- Craniosynostosis
 - Evaluate for other factors such as microcephaly
 - CT scan for neurologic issues, not head shape
 - Surgery if indicated
- Minimally invasive surgery
 - Literature good results in appropriate patients
 - Early referral (under 3 months of age if possible)







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Thank you

Samuel Rhee, MD Recent Director, Craniofacial Surgery Program Department of Surgery Weill Cornell Medical College New York-Presbyterian Medical Center