

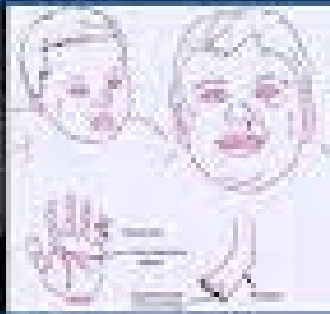
# Anna & John J. Sie Center for Down Syndrome Affiliates



# Down Syndrome is caused by Trisomy 21



1866: Langdon Down describes the clinical features of Down syndrome



1959: Jerome Lejeune describes trisomy 21 in association with DS



# Types of Medical Research

**Bench or basic research:** done in a controlled laboratory setting using nonhuman subjects

**Clinical research:** answer questions regarding the effectiveness of treatments, medications, preventative measures, and more with human subjects

- ex: studying patients over time to see who had the best outcomes

**Clinical trials (type of clinical research):** explore whether a medical strategy, treatment, or device is safe and effective for humans

- ex: testing a new medication before it is made available



**Translational research:** aims to "translate" findings in bench research into medical practice and meaningful health outcomes





# Health Supervision for Children with Down Syndrome: AAP, August 2011 *Pediatrics 2011*

- These guidelines are designed to assist the pediatrician and Subspecialties in caring for children with a diagnosis of Down syndrome



# AAP Guidelines Chart



Children's Hospital Colorado  
= Anna and John J. Sie Center for Down Syndrome

## Down Syndrome Healthcare Guidelines (2011 Revision) Record Sheet\*

	Birth	6 mo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
Genetic Counseling <sup>1</sup> , Karyotype																								
Parent Group Info and Support																								
CBC to R/O transient myeloproliferative disorder, polycythemia	Parent-to-parent contact, support groups, current books and pamphlets																							
Swallowing assessment if feeding problems or aspiration																								
Hemoglobin			Hemoglobin annually beginning at 1 year old. If Hg<11, do (a) CRP and ferritin, or (b) Reticulocyte Hemoglobin Content (CHr). If possible risk for iron deficiency, do (a) or (b) regardless.																					
23-valent pneumococcal vaccine <sup>2</sup>																								
Cardiology	Echo <sup>4</sup>														Screen for acquired mitral or aortic valvular disease									
Audiological Evaluation	ABR or OAE	Every 6 months till 3 years of age. Annually thereafter.																						
Ophthalmologic Evaluation	Red Reflex	Optho Appt	Annual ophthalmology appt					Q2 Ophthalmology appointment							Q3 Ophthalmology appointment									
Celiac Disease Screening					(Only test if signs and symptoms present)																			
Thyroid – TSH, T4	State Screen	Test	Test	Test TSH and T4 annually																				
Neck X-ray (AAI) <sup>3</sup>				✓ <sup>3</sup>																				
Dental Exam			Annual Dental Exams. Reassure parents that delayed or irregular eruption, hypodontia are common.																					
Sleep Study by age 4 years	Done prior to 4 years of age																							
Early Intervention																								
Childhood					Discuss self-help, ADHD, OCD, wandering off, transition to middle school																			
Puberty																Discuss physical and psychosocial changes through puberty, need for gynecologic care (pelvic exams) in pubescent female								
Facilitate transition																Guardianship, financial planning, behavioral problems, school placement, vocational training, independence with hygiene and self-care, group home, work settings								
Sexual development and behaviors																Discuss Contraception, STDs, recurrence risk for offspring								
Preventive care	Annually monitor for signs and symptoms of constipation, OSA, and aspiration.																							

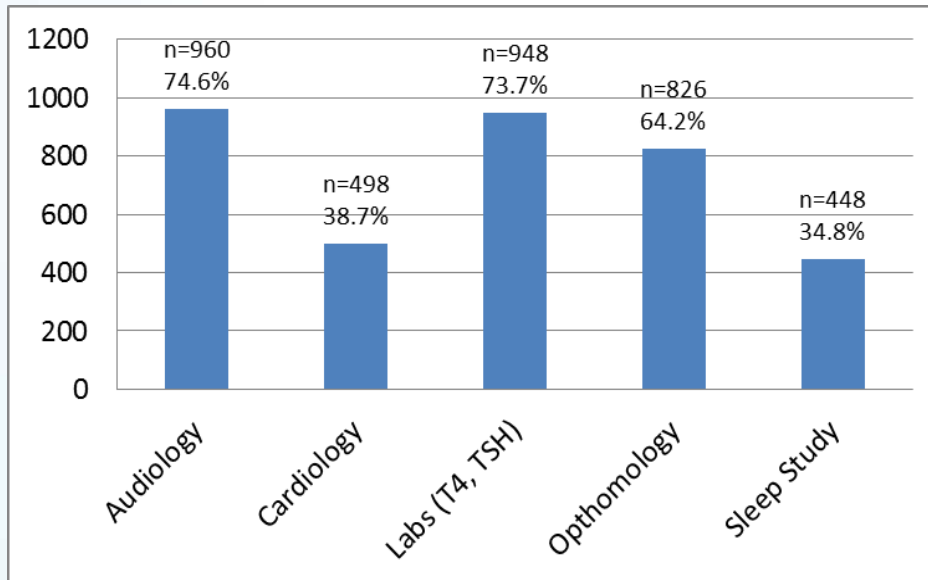
1. Discuss Recurrence Rate of future pregnancies with parents

2. 23-valent pneumococcal vaccine if chronic or pulmonary disease.

3. AAI: See AAP Guidelines page 399 - X-rays only if myopathic signs or symptoms \* Peds 2011 ;128 :393-406 Chart by Sie Center for Down Syndrome

4. Follow up to be determined by Cardiologist

# Impact on Compliance to AAP Down syndrome Guidelines at Sie Center



74.6% referred to **Audiology**

38.7% referred to **Cardiology**

73.7% referred to get **labs (TSH, T4)**

64.2% referred to **Ophthalmology**

34.8% referred to get a **Sleep Study**

## 2016

Total Unique Patients: 1,287

Total Referrals: 8,745

## 2015

Total Unique Patients: 1,125

Total Referrals: 6,000+





## Sleep Study Recommended in 2011 Guidelines

Sleep studies (start at 4yo per guidelines) N=678  
61.2%

**Abnormal sleep studies (out of n=678) N= 482  
71.1%**

Obstructive sleep apnea (out of n=678) N=448  
66.1%





# Predisposing Factors for OSA

## Anatomic

Maxillary Hypoplasia

Relative Macroglossia

Obesity

Smaller Airways

Pulmonary Hypoplasia: poorer gas exchange

## Neurologic

Hypotonia; airway hypotonia

## Reflux /Aspiration

Inflammation; Hypoxia







# Morbidity of OSA

## Neuropsychological

### Cognitive

- Learning
- Executive Function

### Behavior

## Cardiovascular

OSA may compromise long term CV health

### PAH in DS

Cardiac dysfunction

## Growth issues



# Pulmonary Issues in Down Syndrome

- 1 in 700 live births
- 6000 births per year in the US
- High risk of morbidity and mortality from pulmonary disease.
- **Pneumonia is the most common cause of death in Down Syndrome**
  - Causes 23-40% of deaths depending on age

Bittles, *Eur J of Public Health* 2006

Weijerman, *J Pediatr*, 2007

Yang *The Lancet*. 2002

Watts, *Arch Dis Child*, 2013

Joffe, *J Paediatr Child Health* 2016



# Pulmonary Hypertension in T21

Sie Center for T21  
Database (n=1252)

- Pulmonary Hypertension (28%)

***Aerodigestive  
Presenting Symptoms***

Comorbid Condition	Number with Condition	Relative Risk
Congenital Heart Disease	269	8.62
Obstructive Sleep Apnea	146	<b>3.22</b>
Thyroid Dysfunction	86	0.64
Abnormal Swallow Study	76	<b>2.08</b>
Recurrent Pneumonia	72	<b>2.06</b>
Intermittent Hypoxemia	136	3.56
Airway Malacia	140	<b>21.3</b>

Data from Sie Center Article Submitted recently



# Anatomy contributes to morbidity and mortality

## Structural Airway:

Mid-face hypoplasia

Relative macroglossia

Small airways

Malacia

Congenital heart disease

Pulmonary hypoplasia

Pulmonary vascular disease

Dental issues

Immune abnormalities

## Structural GI tract:

duodenal atresia

pyloric stenosis

Hirschsprung's disease

esophageal atresia/ stenosis

malrotation

## Endocrine issues

Thyroid, Obesity, DM

Low muscle tone

Neurocognitive development



Weijerman, *J Pediatr*, 2007

Watts, *Arch Dis Child*, 2013

Joffe, *J Paediatr Child Health* 2016





# Respiratory Illness: Morbidity and Mortality

- Respiratory illnesses are the cause of 80% of admissions to the hospital for children with DS
- Leading cause of mortality in published studies
- Aspiration issues:  
Recurrent Pneumonias, Laryngeal clefts

High Referral Rate to Aerodigestive Team-Pulm,GI,ENT,Feeding





# SIE CENTER ETHNIC SUBGROUPS

Ethnicities	n	%
White, non-Hispanic	833	57.3%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	415	<b>28.6%</b>
More than one race, non-Hispanic	28	1.9%
Black or African American, non-Hispanic	48	3.3%
Other race, non-Hispanic	33	2.3%
Asian	25	1.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	6	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0.0%
Unknown	64	4.4%
Total	<b><u>1453</u></b>	100%











## High Rate of Neonatal Complications

70.6% requiring NICU stay as newborns, indicating the importance of appropriate medical readiness and intervention from birth to discharge

Oxygen in over 60% of admits and 60% required phototherapy.

These numbers are higher in comparison to the largest NICU dataset for DS published from the United Kingdom (n=725, NICU admission rate=46%; require oxygen=31%).

PAH 15%



Feeding Problem 48%





# Comorbidities and medical complications of children treated in the SCDS Clinic

Results		n	%
<b>GI diagnosis</b>		766	<b>69.1%</b>
	GERD	424	38.3%
	Feeding problem	319	28.8%
	GI malformations	134	12.1%
	G-tube	99	8.9%
	Esophageal stricture	9	1.6%
<b>Ophthalmologic anomalies</b>		722	<b>65.2%</b>
	Strabismus	190	17.1%
	Nasolacrimal duct obstruction surgery	89	8.0%
	Strabismus surgery	59	5.3%
	Cataracts	43	3.9%
<b>Cardiac defects</b>		712	<b>64.3%</b>
	<b>Heart defects requiring surgery</b>	343	<b>31.0%</b>
Sleep: Sleep study		678	61.2%
	Abnormal sleep studies (out of n=678)	482	71.1%
	Obstructive sleep apnea (out of n=678)	448	66.1%

# Comorbidities and medical complications of children treated in the SCDS Clinic

Results (continued)		n	%
ENT: Tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy		522	47.1%
<b>ENT: Laryngomalacia</b>		65	<b>5.9%</b>
Audiology: PE tube		468	42.2%
Audiology: Hearing aid		100	9.0%
Autoimmune diagnosis		409	36.9%
	Hypothyroidism	302	27.3%
	Hyperthyroidism	15	1.4%
	Celiac disease	55	5.0%
	Alopecia	15	1.5%
	Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis	2	0.2%
<b>Pulmonary: Aspiration</b>		135	<b>12.2%</b>
<b>Pulmonary hypertension</b>		314	<b>28.3%</b>
Neurologic: Seizures		53	4.8%
	Infantile spasms	30	2.7%
Autism		38	3.4%
Leukemia		17	1.5%
Transient Myelodysplasia		12	1.1%



## Audiology:

Guideline recommendations for testing every 6 months until three years of age and then annually .

Our highest noncompliant rate of all guideline recommendations is audiology at 74%, which is disconcerting.

A recent published paper \* from our clinic and audiology dept at CHCO, indicates a high rate of hearing loss. In 2013, after increasing referrals from our clinic to audiology, 24.9% of 308 children with DS were identified with permanent hearing loss at the average age of 6 years.

## Autoimmune diagnosis:

\_Thyroid abnormalities (29.1%),hypothyroid (27.3%) and celiac disease (5.0 %) results may be an underestimation of the prevalence, since a large percentage of our clinic population is under four years of age.






Pediatricians and family practice physicians need to be aware of:

- (1) The increased incidence of comorbidities, especially at birth
- (2) the importance of appropriate evaluation and referral consistent with the compliance to the AAP's DS Guidelines for all children with DS
- (3) establishing treatment plans with a developmental specialty team for identified comorbidities
- (4) Considering implementing routine celiac screenings and swallow studies not currently outlined in the guidelines



A close-up photograph of a young child with Down Syndrome, wearing white-rimmed glasses, holding a yellow corn cob with both hands and taking a bite. The child has light-colored hair and eyes. The background is a soft-focus green field. A blue diagonal graphic element is on the left side of the image.

# **Dysphagia and Aspiration Management in Children with Down Syndrome**



# Aspiration in Down syndrome

In the first few years of the clinic, a significant number of abnormal swallow studies were noted in our population data. The 2011 AAP DS Guidelines also recommended increased consideration of obtaining feeding assessments in children with DS if symptoms.

These two issues led to the following:

- 1) increase in ordering of swallow studies
- 2) starting a Feeding Clinic
- 3) initiating subsequent feeding research.

The research led to the finding of 158 patients studied- 56% had pharyngeal phase dysphagia;

90.2% of patients who aspirated did so silently without symptoms

Follow up studies are in process to better define at-risk infants.

Jackson et al. (2016)







# Clinical Care Pathway (CCP) for Dysphagia in Down Syndrome

Better process for dysphagia management identified as an area of need by CHCO physicians, parents/caregivers, and community physicians

## Goals:

- Guidelines for evaluation

- Physician management

- Therapeutics

- Standardization of care

-  Centralized resource for information







## What We Have Learned About Feeding

Routine screening of feeding/swallowing is essential during PCP visits

Aspiration is the most common symptom of dysphagia in children with DS, and is often silent

When dysphagia persists, coordinated subspecialty care with ENT, GI, and Pulmonary is recommended

Communication with feeding and swallowing specialists is critical to establish a developmentally supportive feeding plan when dysphagia is present





# Research Projects N=25

## **Endostatin as a Biomarker of Risk for Pulmonary Hypertension in Down Syndrome**

Abstract/Aims: To determine whether serum endostatin levels correlate to PAH disease onset or severity in patients with DS. We will compare patients who have DS with PAH, DS without PAH, non-DS with PAH and non-DS normal healthy controls.

## **Trisomy 21, Obstructive Sleep Apnea, & Airvo High-flow Nasal Cannula Algorithm -PULM**

Abstract/Aims: ? We are looking at both “rescue” and “CPAP comparison” groups where the rescue kids will have attempted and failed CPAP, and the CPAP comparison group includes kids adherent to prescribed CPAP.

## **Immune -Neutropenia/Leukopenia in Trisomy 21**

Abstract/Aims: Define average CBC panel results for children with Down syndrome.

### **Part II to assess Immune Function in Down Syndrome**

Comparison of children with history of significant infection vs. a control group





## **Human Trisome Project**

Working with Crnic Project

## **Ethnic Differences in Child Feeding Practices in Children with Down syndrome and Association with BMI**

Abstract/Aims: Examining how ethnicity and demographics play a role in feeding practices and relationship of feeding to BMI

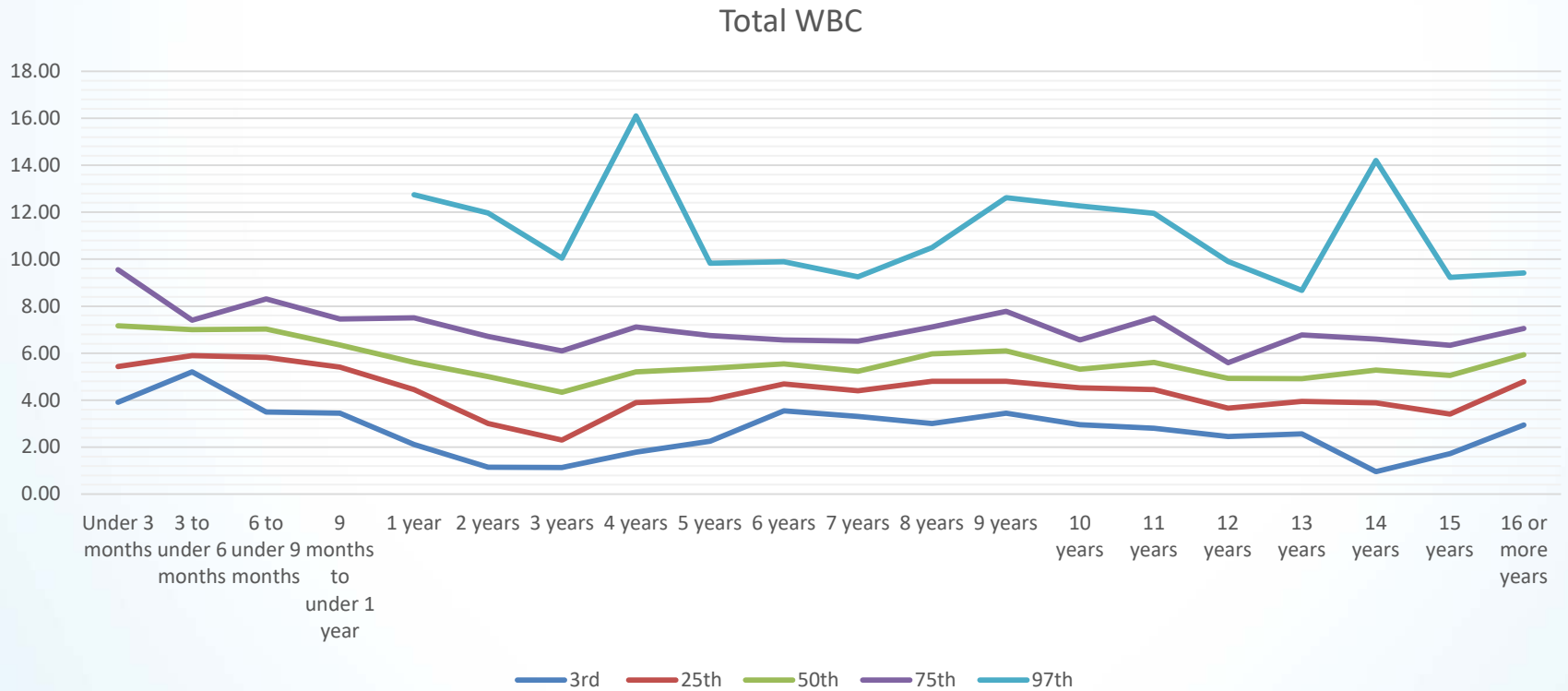
## **Accuracy of Welch Allyn Spot™ Vision Screener to Detect Amblyogenic Factors in Developmentally Delayed Children**

Abstract/Aims: Assess whether the Welch-Allyn SPOT Vision Screener (SPOT) is effective at detecting various amblyogenic risk factors (ARFs) in developmentally delayed children. Fifty patients would be recruited from the Sie Center Clinic and 50 from SCC Special Care Clinic.

Status: Completed



Total tests in the sample (Sie Center patients) n=2,083  
Unique Sie Center patients with results n=669



# The End and Thanks

