

Cri du Chat

Ages: 0 – 3

<p>What kind of professionals will my child need?</p>	<p>General physician – addresses the overall health of your child Clinical geneticist – addresses the genetic aspects of Cru di Chat Audiologist and Ophthalmologist – addresses any visual and hearing impairments Orthopedist – addresses musculoskeletal issues your child may encounter Cardiologist – addresses heart health, specifically congenital defects Nephrologist or Urologist – assesses kidney and bladder function Gastroenterologist –assesses digestive function and helps with feeding and nutritional difficulties Ophthalmologist – addresses any eye or vision issues Audiologist – addresses ear and hearing problems Physical Therapist – addresses musculoskeletal and mobility impairments Occupational Therapist – helps your child interact with the environment and learn independence Speech Therapist - helps your child communicate effectively Psychologist - addresses the emotional and social health of your family</p>
<p>What other conditions may affect my child?</p>	<p>Musculoskeletal – musculoskeletal problems vary from child to child, but can often be address with physical therapy and surgery in extreme cases</p> <p>Hearing and Vision impairments – degree of impairment varies from child to child; addressing possible hearing or visual impairments helps with other areas of development as well</p> <p>Developmental delays – children with Cri du Chat are often have low birth weight and have a delay in achieving some developmental milestones because of this and other aspects of Cri du Chat</p> <p>Respiratory issues – respiratory infections are common and should be treated early</p> <p>Digestive difficulties – due to swallowing difficulties getting the proper nutrition is difficult; surgery may be needed to help with feeding. Constipation is also common and can be treated with diet modifications and medication.</p> <p>Behavioral problems – sleeping issues, aggression, hyperactivity can occur in children with Cri du Chat, but can be treated with various therapies.</p> <p>Congenital heart disease – ventricular and atrial septal defects can be repaired surgically early in the baby’s life.</p> <p>**It is important to know that these conditions are more common in individuals with Cri du Chat, but a diagnosis of Cri du Chat does not mean that your child will develop them.**</p>
<p>What kind of surgeries will my child need?</p>	<p>Surgery is not always necessary, but can be helpful depending on what kind of impairments your child may have. Surgeries can address digestive, musculoskeletal, hearing, or visual problems. This is a list of a few options, but</p>

	<p>consult your doctor for more information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundoplication and gastrostomy are surgeries that can help address feeding issues. • Cardiac surgery may be necessary to repair any septum defects (holes in the lining of the heart) • Orthopedic surgery is done in cases of skeletal deformations that sometimes occur with Cri du Chat
<p>What therapies are available?</p>	<p>Drug therapy is not used to treat Cri du Chat directly, but may be used for associated medical issues like gastric issues and behavioral problems.</p> <p>Speech therapy helps your child communicate, carry on a conversation, make important facial expressions, and speak more clearly. Speech therapy can also help with eating and swallowing – which is very important to make sure your child is getting all the nutrients it needs. Most children with Cri du Chat have significant delays in speech development so early intervention is important.</p> <p>Physical therapy helps keep muscles strong and flexible, which is important for children with hypertonicity (tight muscles), hip deformities or problems with other joints. Early intervention is important as children with Cri du Chat often have motor delays.</p> <p>Occupational therapy helps to teach your child how to care for him/herself and establish independence. This can range from toileting to dressing to writing.</p> <p>Special braces can help to compensate for muscle imbalance and improve mobility of an affected limb.</p> <p>Water therapy or aqua therapy reduces the pressure on the child’s bones and joints, enabling them to move more freely than they can on land. It helps increase muscle strength, improve coordination, increase endurance, and relieve stress.</p>
<p>What kind of assistive devices are available?</p>	<p>Adaptive devices are commonly used for children with Cri du Chat, especially to help with communication, proper body positioning, and mobility. Please use the informational list of adaptive devices, consult your physician, or check out the websites listed below.</p> <p>Car seats, stroller, and push chairs – help with proper positioning and posture while doing everyday activities</p> <p>Orthotics (particularly for the foot) – to correct some bone deformations and make walking easier, prevent hip migration, and prevent joint contractures</p> <p>Tricycles – not only for recreational use, but also used for physical therapy purposes</p> <p>Walkers and gait trainers – help support your child while walking (and</p>

	<p>learning to walk)</p> <p>Toileting chairs, Sleeping aids, Table and chairs, Bathing aids –used to make everyday activities more manageable</p> <p>Special handles and grips - for eating utensils, pens, pencils, making it easier for your child to hold things.</p> <p>Communication aids – such as a book or poster to spell out messages, and specialized computers that can talk for your child is he/she is difficult to understand.</p> <p>Computer technology – can help with multiple daily activities, like scanning documents, typing, pointing, etc. This can be very helpful if your child is non-verbal.</p> <p>Helpful websites: http://pattersonmedical.com/ http://www.ottobockus.com/ http://www.especialneeds.com/home.php</p>
What sort of expectation should I have for my child's intellectual development?	Each child with Cri du Chat usually experiences moderately delays in all areas of development. The amount of intellectual capability varied from child to child and depends on the degree of the syndrome. Consult with your doctors to help understand what can be expected of your child.
What sort of expectation should I have for my child's physical development?	Physical development depends on the severity of Cri du Chat. Any major malformations are normally surgically correctable. Some children are delayed in achieving developmental milestones, while others are never able to achieve them. It is important to monitor your child's physical health as he/she grows in order to ensure the best outcomes. Again, it is impossible to tell what any child will be capable of; consult with your doctor for more information.

Cri du Chat

Ages 4-12

From the ages of 4-12 you will still need to continue using the same information as above about what doctors to consult and therapies that are available, so please refer back to the chart for ages 0-3. This chart includes additional things you may need to do after your child turns 4.

What should I continue doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep regular appointments with your doctors and therapists. - Monitor any health changes; chronic upper respiratory problems, ear infections, and constipation become more prevalent as the child becomes older. Regular check-ups help to monitor potential complications as your child grows. - It is especially important to consult your orthopedist regularly as scoliosis is common in children with Cri du Chat and should be monitored starting at an early age. - Enjoy your child!
What kind of surgeries will my child need?	Again, surgery is not always necessary, but may be helpful to correct musculoskeletal problems, especially in cases of scoliosis. It is important that you continuously check in with your orthopedic surgeon as your child grows to monitor any changes that may occur or need to be corrected. The surgeries

	described above are still important to consider at all ages.
What kind of assistive devices are available?	<p>The previous list of adaptive devices (in the 0-3) is still applicable, but here are a few more options for your growing child. For more details about any of this equipment look at the adaptive devices list or the websites listed above.</p> <p>Wheelchairs – simply for getting around.</p> <p>Computer technology – can help with multiple daily activities, like scanning documents, typing, pointing, etc. This can be very helpful if your child is non-verbal.</p>
What kinds of therapies are available?	<p>This is not an exhaustive list, but can be added to the therapies listed above to consider as your child gets older:</p> <p>Massage therapy – may help to relax tense muscles, improving mobility.</p> <p>Counseling – to help modify behavioral and emotional difficulties in children and in your family life too.</p> <p>Hippotherapy – a new type of therapist which involves interacting with horses to aid in achieving normal balance, improving posture, movement, muscle strength, and overall coordination.</p>
What will my child do for school?	<p>Going to school is important for emotional and social development of your child. Your child has a right to attend public school and receive the same free education as every other child. Before sending them to school, you should know if your child has a learning disability or physical disability that may impair their learning. If he/she does, then they qualify for special education assistance. Depending on the school district, your child may be “mainstreamed” and placed in general education classes with everyone their age, but with a modified work to accommodate their learning disability. This is known as “inclusion” in the public schools. Your child may also be placed in a special education classroom with other students who qualify for special education accommodations.</p> <p>Additional information about Individualized Education Programs (IEP): US Department of Education</p>

Cri du Chat

Ages 13-18

What new challenges will my child experience as he/she gets older?	<p>Puberty can be a difficult time, but it may be especially challenging for teens with Cri du Chat. Rapid growth can cause weight gain and clumsiness in any teen, but can make it even more difficult for someone with Cri du Chat to move around. Continue with regular appointments with your doctors to monitor your child’s health and consider how surgeries and adaptive devices described above may help your child.</p>
--	---

Cri du Chat

Ages 18 and beyond

What new challenges will my child experience as he/she gets older?	Although Cri du Chat is not a progressive disease, it is important to continue with regular appointments with your doctors to ensure that no complications arise.
--	---

References

1. Defining Cri du Chat Syndrome. Disabled-World 2011. Available at: <http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/types/cri-du-chat.php#ixzz1l8sBSu5J>. Accessed on: March 27, 2011.
2. Cri du Chat available treatments. Cri du Chat Support Group – Australia. Available at: <http://www.criduchat.asn.au/criduchat/what.htm>. Accessed on: March 27, 2011.
3. Cornish, K., Bramble, D. Cri du chat syndrome: genotype-phenotype correlations and recommendations for clinical management. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* 2002. 44; 7: 494-497.
4. Medscape reference: Cri du Chat. Medscape 2011. Available at: <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/942897-overview>. Accessed on: April 1, 2011.
5. My Child's Special Needs. US Department of Education. Available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/iepguide/index.html>. Accessed on: April 2, 2011.