Thanks to advances in cardiac surgery in the last few decades, congenital heart disease (CHD) is diagnosed earlier and treated more successfully today than ever before. Now, babies with CHD commonly survive into adulthood with the intervention of pediatric heart experts.

However, the long-term effects of CHD often are not limited to the heart. Children with CHD are known to be at higher risk for neurological deficits and developmental delays, including learning disabilities and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Less commonly, seizures and/or stroke may occur. The good news is that research shows that early diagnosis and appropriate interventions result in better developmental outcomes.

Intervening early to solve problems

We have created a comprehensive, dedicated Neurocardiac Clinic at Cleveland Clinic Children's to follow children with complex CHD. This allows us to promptly identify and address any neurodevelopmental problems that occur so that we can minimize disability.

The multidisciplinary team in the Neurocardiac Clinic is composed of specialists in pediatric cardiology, pediatric neurology, developmental pediatrics, genetics, nutrition, pediatric behavioral health and neuropsychology. Together, our specialists will create an individualized care plan tailored to each patient's unique needs.

The Neurocardiac program offers:

- Comprehensive, coordinated care for children with CHD
- Early screening and detailed evaluation of children at risk for neurodevelopmental disabilities
- Ongoing care and monitoring of neurodevelopmental problems common in children with CHD
- Education and assistance for patients and families

The importance of identifying neurodevelopmental problems early is critical to allowing each child to reach his or her full potential.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, call 216.444.8231 or 800.223.2273, ext. 48231.

clevelandclinicchildrens.org

Help for managing children's healthcare online

Parents and legal guardians of patients under 18 treated at Cleveland Clinic Children's can access portions of their electronic medical record online with Cleveland Clinic MyChart. Parents can view their child's test results, schedule appointments, renew prescriptions and track immunizations.

For information, visit clevelandclinic.org/mychart.