

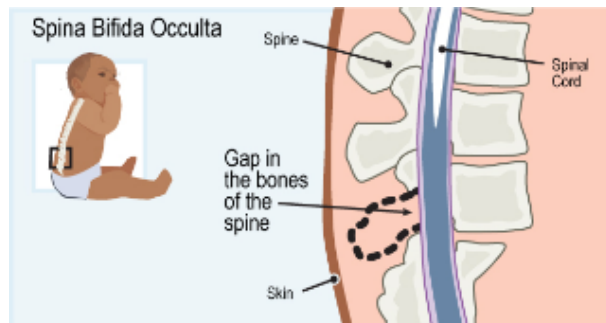
Spina bifida occulta

Recommendations and referral criteria

Spina bifida occulta (closed spinal dysraphism) occurs when there is a failure in the formation of the spine. It's most commonly seen with incomplete fusion of posterior spine.

- No exposed neural tissue.
- Skin overlying the defect is intact.
- Most are isolated lamina defects.
- Approximately 20% of the population has spina bifida occulta.

Most children with spina bifida occulta are asymptomatic and rarely need medical care.



Recommendations

- Monitoring and reassurance within the medical home.

Reassure parents

- Imaging findings of spina bifida occulta do not require consult or referral to Neurosurgery or Orthopedics.

When do I refer?

- Neurologic deficits or abnormalities on exam.
- Concern for tethered spinal cord on imaging.



[Learn more.](#)

Contact us

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cookchildrens.org/neuro

For referral forms and insurance information,
visit cookchildrens.org/professionals

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