History & Cause

• Spina Bifida is a birth defect that occurs when an embryo’s brain, spinal cord, surrounding nerves and/or spinal column fail to develop normally during the first 28 days of pregnancy.

A combination of environmental and "genetic" factors and a lack of folic acid in the diet — or the inability to naturally absorb folic acid.

Symptoms/Effects

Persons with Spina Bifida experience:
• Loss of bladder control
• Loss of bowel control

Treatment

• A newborn with Spina Bifida requires neurosurgery within 24 to 48 hours of birth. Some people who have Spina Bifida require ongoing treatment for problems stemming from damage to the spinal cord.

The Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare is a center that treats infants, children, teens and adults.

Test & Diagnosis

• CT Scan, Ultrasonography, MRI, and Shunt series.

The 3 most common Types of Spina Bifida are:
• Myelomeningocele — a sac containing an spinal cord protrudes from an opening in a newborn’s back.
• Meningocele — sac protruding from an opening in the spinal column.

Interesting Info

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Citations