

PEDIATRIC GLAUCOMA

About 1 in 2000 children in the US are born with glaucoma. In this disorder (congenital glaucoma), a defect in the system that drains fluid out of the eye causes high pressure and damage to the eye and to the nerve that connects the eye to the brain. Classic signs of congenital glaucoma include tearing, sensitivity to light, spasm of the eyelids and enlarged, cloudy corneas.

The treatment for congenital glaucoma is primarily surgery. Because this is a rare and complex condition, few ophthalmologists are trained to completely manage it. At the Dean McGee Eye Institute, Dr. Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr. and Dr. Mahmoud A. Khaimi perform surgery on many children with glaucoma, not only from Oklahoma, but also from the region. One surgery involves using a microscope to peel open a drainage canal the size of a small blood vessel. New technology is now being used in a clinical trial to investigate faster and less traumatic ways to accomplish this.



Young girl with congenital glaucoma in the right eye. The involved eye appears much larger.

Finally, treatment of childhood glaucoma does not end with surgery. These unfortunate children need regular follow-up, often in an operating room. Not only can the glaucoma reoccur, but these children are at risk for a host of other eye problems. Consequently, at DMEI Drs. Sarkisian and Khaimi frequently manage these problems in a team approach with other specialists. Overall, if discovered early, most of these children need not go blind, but can retain lifelong useful vision. For more information, please call the Dean McGee Eye Institute at (405) 271-1093.

Solutions in Sight™

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is dedicated to serving our community through excellence and leadership in eye care, education, and vision research.

The Dean McGee Eye Institute is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based on the campus of the Oklahoma Health Center in Oklahoma City. Its forty ophthalmologists and scientists care for over 130,000 patients annually and consistently ranks among the leaders in vision research funding from the National Institutes of Health.



Drs. Khaimi and Sarkisian preparing to examine a child with congenital glaucoma.



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