

Medical Aspects in Developmental Disabilities in Children

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The Challenge

- Medically more complex
- Babies survive with high probability of disability
- Technology dependent
- Require high level of sophistication



Prevention



- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary

Primary Prevention

- Folate supplementation



Secondary Prevention



- Early recognition of hearing impairment may prevent communication disorders

Tertiary Prevention

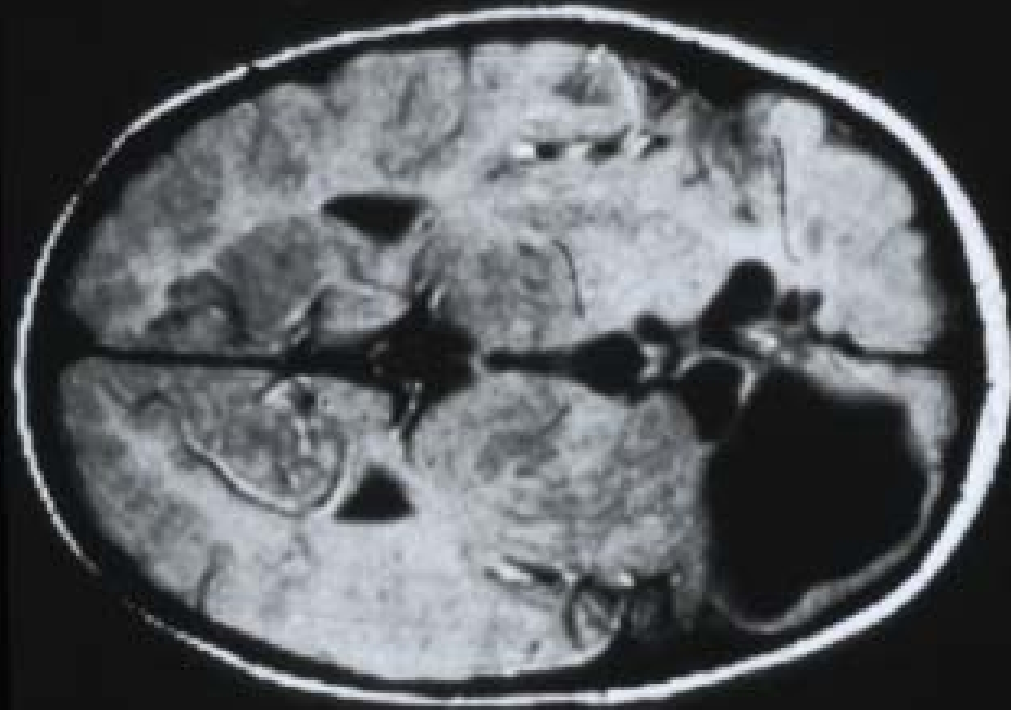
- Assistive devices for children with cerebral palsy may prevent isolation from social experiences



New Diagnostic Technologies

- Neuroimaging
- Molecular genetics
- Why do these technologies help?

Neuroimaging



Molecular Genetics



How do these technologies help?

- Understand cause of disability
- Explanation for parents
- Allow comparison to other children with the same abnormality
- Anticipate certain health and learning problems
- Contribute to understanding of conditions



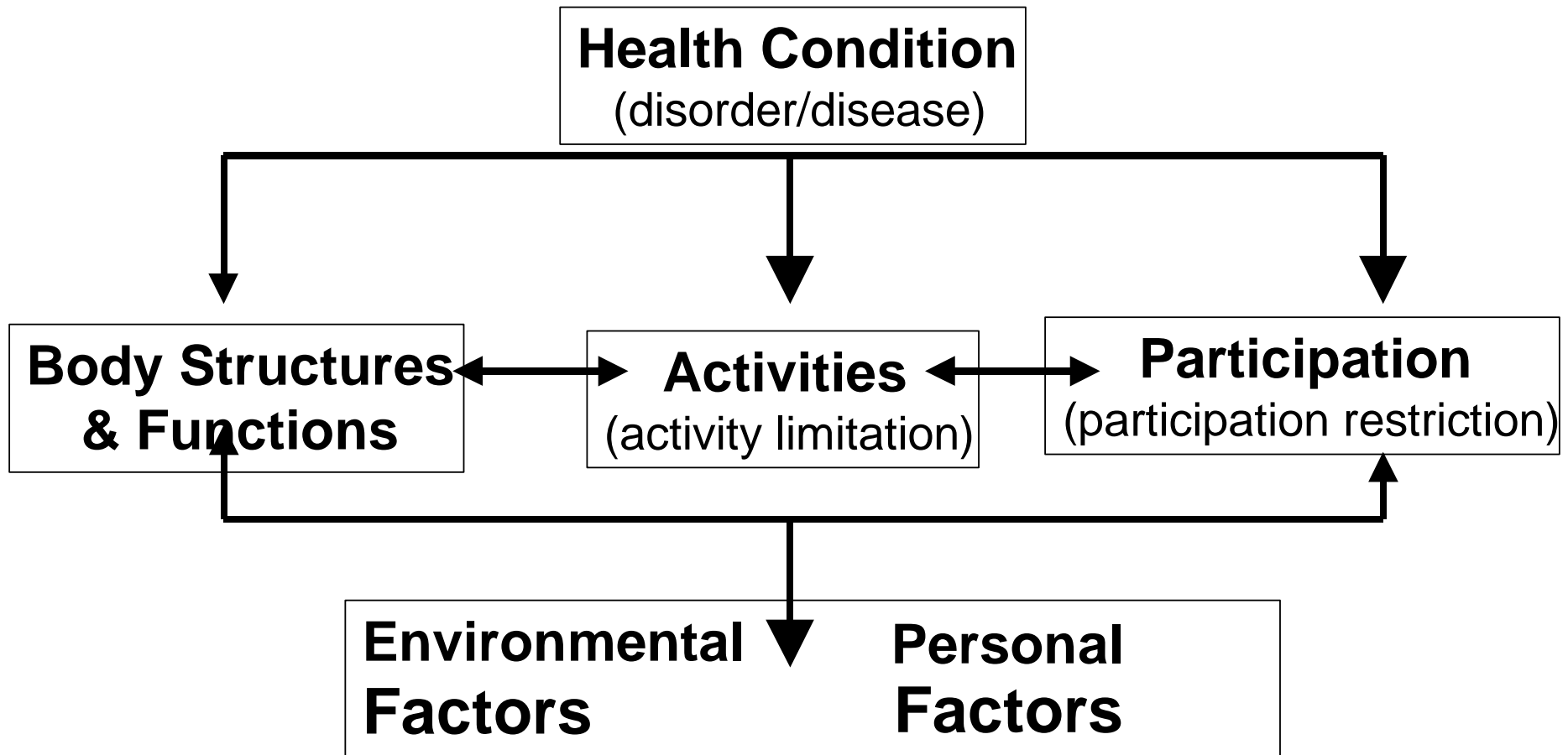
Medical Care of Children with Disabilities

- Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Autism
 - Better and earlier diagnosis
 - Nutrition
 - Seizure management
 - Orthopedic care
 - Physical conditioning

Routine Health Maintenance

- Immunizations
- Vision and hearing screening
- Surveillance of growth and development
- Anticipatory guidance
 - Safety
 - Diet
 - Sexuality
 - Behavior

World Health Organization



Responsibilities of Health Care Providers

- Maximize physiologic function
- Integrate health care maintenance efforts with other services
 - Achieved through medical home

Medical Home

- Primary care
- Coordination of care
- Interface with medical subspecialties
- Interface with health related disciplines
 - PT, OT, Speech therapy
- Interface with education
- Interface with social services