



# Chiari Malformation

Chiari malformations (CMs) are structural defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance. When the indented bony space at the lower rear of the skull is smaller than normal, the cerebellum and brainstem can be pushed downward. The resulting pressure on the cerebellum can block the flow of cerebrospinal fluid (the liquid that surrounds and protects the brain and spinal cord) and can cause a range of symptoms including dizziness, muscle weakness, numbness, vision problems, headache, and problems with balance and coordination. There are three primary types of CM. The most common is Type I, which may not cause symptoms and is often found by accident during an examination for another condition. Type II (also called Arnold-Chiari malformation) is usually accompanied by a myelomeningocele—a form of spina bifida that occurs when the spinal canal and backbone do not close before birth, causing the spinal cord to protrude through an opening in the back. This can cause partial or complete paralysis below the spinal opening. Type III is the most serious form of CM, and causes severe neurological defects. Other conditions sometimes associated with CM include hydrocephalus, syringomyelia, and spinal curvature.

Source: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

[www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Chiari-Malformation-Fact-Sheet](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Chiari-Malformation-Fact-Sheet)

## Web Sites

### **American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS): Patient Information – Chiari Malformation**

[www.aans.org](http://www.aans.org)

<http://www.aans.org/Patient%20Information/Conditions%20and%20Treatments/Chiari%20Malformation.aspx>

The AANS provides information on four types of chiari malformation, syringomyelia and hydromyelia, including symptoms, diagnosis and treatment.

### **American Syringomyelia & Chiari Alliance Project (ASAP)**

<http://www.asap.org/>

PO Box 1586

Longview, TX 75606-1586

Phone: 903-236-7079, 800-ASAP-282 (Toll Free)

E-mail: [info@asap.org](mailto:info@asap.org)

ASAP provides information regarding Chiari (CM) and syringomyelia (SM) and related disorders and support for people with these disorders and their families and caregivers. The organization also funds research and sponsors an annual medical conference.

**Bobby Jones Chiari & Syringomyelia Foundation (CSF)**

<https://bobbyjonescsf.org/>

29 Crest Loop

Staten Island, NY 10312

Phone: 718-966-2593

Bobby Jones CSF is an education and advocacy organization.

**Chiari & Syringomyelia News**

<http://www.conquerchiari.org/>

320 Osprey Court

Wexford, PA 15090

Phone: 724-940-0116

Email: [director@conquerchiari.org](mailto:director@conquerchiari.org)

A newsletter published by the C&S Patient Education Foundation, known informally as Conquer Chiari. The website also includes general information on Chiari, updates on the latest research, and links to support groups.

**Kids Health from Nemours: Chiari Malformations**

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/chiari.html>

**Mayo Clinic: Chiari Malformations**

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/chiari-malformation/symptoms-causes/syc-20354010>

**National Institute of Neurological Disorder and Stroke (NINDS): Chiari Malformations Information Page**

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Chiari-Malformation-Information-Page>

**National Institute of Neurological Disorder and Stroke (NINDS): Chiari Malformations booklet**

<https://catalog.ninds.nih.gov/publications/chiari-malformation>

**National Organization for Rare Disorders: Chiari Malformations**

<https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/chiari-malformations/>

**Worldwide Syringomyelia & Chiari Task Force Inc.**

<http://www.wstfcure.org/>

PO Box 491975

Lawrenceville, GA 30049

Phone: 914-510-2873

Email: [wstfcure@wstfcure.org](mailto:wstfcure@wstfcure.org)

The Worldwide Syringomyelia & Chiari Task Force Inc.'s mission is to educate the world about syringomyelia. They are a 501 c 3 organization led by nurses, physicians, and veterinarians focused on answering the problems associated with syringomyelia as well as focused on advocating for the rights of the individual and canines bravely battling it with or without chiari. They provide direct assistance with prescriptions and durable medical equipment and offer continuous educational credits to medical professionals to learn about syringomyelia and worldwide broadcasting through UStream.

### **Specialized Center**

#### **The Chiari Institute**

[www.northwell.edu/find-care/services-we-offer/neuroscience-institute/chiari-institute](http://www.northwell.edu/find-care/services-we-offer/neuroscience-institute/chiari-institute)

Phone: 881-321-3621

The Chiari Institute is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary center for the management of patients with Chiari Malformation, syringomyelia, and related disorders. NYC area

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