

CASE STUDY: SPINAL MUSCLE ATROPHY (SMA)

Spinal Muscle Atrophy (SMA) is a motor neuron disease characterized by muscle wasting and motor impairment. The nerves do not conduct impulses to the muscles in a normal manner. Usually, the muscles closest to the trunk are affected most. Approximately 1 out of 6,000 babies is born with SMA. It is the most common genetic cause of infant death. Life expectancy is 2-3 years, although a child with Type III, a less severe form, may survive to early adulthood.

There are varying degrees of severity of SMA. Children diagnosed with SMA may have severe hypotonia, respiratory problems, and feeding issues. Intellect and sensation are not affected.

Please address the following questions when discussing your case study:

- What are some characteristics that a child with this condition may have and how can they affect how the child is transported?
- What are some general guidelines to consider when transporting a child with this condition? (You do not have to give specific restraint names, only general categories)