CHAPTER 1  Understanding Cerebral Palsy

1. An Overview of Cerebral Palsy  14
   Scott J. Polzin, Teresa G. Odle, and Tish Davidson
   Cerebral palsy is a group of disorders of movement and posture caused by brain damage before, during, or after birth.

2. Cerebral Palsy Research Focuses on Prevention and Treatment  27
   National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
   Researchers are looking for ways to prevent cerebral palsy by preventing brain injuries from occurring in the first place.

3. New Chemicals May Help Prevent Cerebral Palsy  35
   Megan Fellman
   Chemists have discovered new chemical compounds that may help prevent cerebral palsy.

4. Looking for a Genetic Cause for Cerebral Palsy  41
   University of Adelaide
   Australian researchers are undertaking a huge study to find a genetic link for cerebral palsy.
5. Hypothermia May Help Prevent Cerebral Palsy

Elizabeth Fernandez

Newborns at risk of developing cerebral palsy are cooled down to lessen brain damage and reduce future problems.

6. Robotic Therapy Holds Promise for Cerebral Palsy Patients

Anne Trafton

Children with cerebral palsy are being helped by robotic devices originally developed to assist stroke patients in learning to control their arms and legs.

CHAPTER 2

Controversies Surrounding Cerebral Palsy

1. Cord Blood Infusions Offer Hope for Babies with Cerebral Palsy

Bob Considine

Anecdotal evidence indicates that stem cells derived from stored umbilical cord blood may alleviate symptoms of cerebral palsy.

2. Claims That Cord Blood Infusions Cure Cerebral Palsy Are Exaggerated

Brenda Patoine

Media reports claiming miraculous stem cell cures for cerebral palsy are exaggerated. Additional scientific studies are needed to assess the extent of the benefits of cord blood stem cells.

3. Fetal Monitoring Can Help Prevent Cerebral Palsy

Howard A. Janet

Monitoring a fetus’s heart rate during labor can help prevent cerebral palsy from occurring.
4. Whether Fetal Monitoring Is Beneficial or Harmful Is Unclear

Jane Brody

There is continuing controversy about whether fetal monitoring does more harm than good.

5. Botox Treatments for Cerebral Palsy Are Risky

Lisa Girion

Botox has become a common treatment for the muscle spasticity associated with cerebral palsy. It may, however, cause harm and is blamed for the death of at least one child who received the treatment.

6. Using Botox to Treat Cerebral Palsy Is Worth the Risk

Ellen Seidman

The mother of a child with cerebral palsy says Botox has helped her son, and she will continue getting him the injections.

7. Complementary and Alternative Medicine May Help People with Cerebral Palsy

Gregory S. Liptak

Many people with cerebral palsy are turning to complementary and alternative medicine, and while some treatments warrant further research, many people report benefits from the treatments.

CHAPTER 3

Personal Experiences with Cerebral Palsy

1. Facing Fears and Climbing Mountains

Bonner Paddock, Interviewed by Brian Helfrich

Bonner Paddock has not let cerebral palsy stop him from running a marathon or climbing mountains.
2. Focusing on Ability, Not Disability 114
   Glenda Watson Hyatt, Interviewed by Fernanda
   In an interview about her life with cerebral palsy, a young woman shares her desire to be independent and her refusal to give in to self-pity.

3. A Teen Triumphs over His Disability 118
   Keith
   Teenager Keith says cerebral palsy has made him a stronger person. With determination and a positive attitude, he overcame many challenges to succeed in high school.

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Independent research on a health issue is often the first step to complement discussions with a physician. But locating accurate, well-organized, understandable medical information can be a challenge. A simple Internet search on terms such as “cancer” or “diabetes,” for example, returns an intimidating number of results. Sifting through the results can be daunting, particularly when some of the information is inconsistent or even contradictory. The Greenhaven Press series Perspectives on Diseases and Disorders offers a solution to the often overwhelming nature of researching diseases and disorders.

From the clinical to the personal, titles in the Perspectives on Diseases and Disorders series provide students and other researchers with authoritative, accessible information in unique anthologies that include basic information about the disease or disorder, controversial aspects of diagnosis and treatment, and first-person accounts of those impacted by the disease. The result is a well-rounded combination of primary and secondary sources that, together, provide the reader with a better understanding of the disease or disorder.

Each volume in Perspectives on Diseases and Disorders explores a particular disease or disorder in detail. Material for each volume is carefully selected from a wide range of sources, including encyclopedias, journals, newspapers, non-fiction books, speeches, government documents, pamphlets, organization newsletters, and position papers. Articles in the first chapter provide an authoritative, up-to-date overview that covers symptoms, causes and effects, treatments,