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YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics

Spina Bifida

Spina Bifida literally translates to split or open spine, and it is the name of a birth defect that keeps the sides of an embryo's spine from meeting. Spina Bifida occurs during the first month of pregnancy, but the effects can last a lifetime. The cause of spina bifida is largely unknown, but some say it can occur when the mother's folic acid levels are low, if the mother experiences a high fever during early pregnancy, or if she has taken the drug valproic in order to control epileptic seizures. There are varying degrees of Spina Bifida, with the most severe resulting in paralysis and the mildest showing no symptoms at all. To date, there is no cure.

Contact MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS. For more information about anything related to your baby's health and diet. We provide excellent comprehensive care for children from birth through adolescence. To schedule an appointment call 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. New patients are welcome.

P.S. Studies indicate that women who consume 0.4 mg of folic acid daily give birth to children with lower occurrence of spina bifida.

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