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YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics

Rett Syndrome

Rett Syndrome is a developmental disorder that affects one in every 10-15,000 births, almost always females. The disorder occurs in four stages, beginning at about 6 to 18 months of age when the child's development slows along with the growth of the head. The second stage begins between the 1st and 4th years and is characterized by random hand movements, breathing difficulties, and loss of language. Stage three begins between age 2 and 10 and can last most of the child's life. There are some improvements in alertness and language in stage three. Stage four is marked by a loss of motor skills, but usually there is no loss of cognition. Rett syndrome is caused by mutations on the X chromosome.

Speak to your pediatrician if you have any concerns about your child's development or if you notice a lack of normal development with motor or language skills. For additional information about anything discussed in today's column, call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS at 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. We look forward to welcoming you at our practice.

**P.S. With therapy, children suffering from Rett syndrome can lead happy, productive lives and enjoy school and community activities.*

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