

About our program

Children's offers a clinic for positive scoliosis screening follow-up.

- The program offers a more complete exam by a registered nurse and an X-ray if needed.
- The clinic staff is a resource if your child needs to be seen by a pediatric orthopaedic specialist.



Call **404-785-7553** for an appointment or visit choa.org/scoliosis to learn more.



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

choa.org/scoliosis

©2015 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Inc. All rights reserved. ORT 961374.js:7/15

Scoliosis

Stay ahead of the curve



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta
Dedicated to All Better

*Dedicated to All Better*SM

Early detection can save your child from a lifetime of pain and deformity

What is scoliosis?

Scoliosis is a sideways curve of the spine. The curve can make the spine look like an “s” or a “c” rather than a straight line when viewed from the back. Scoliosis also can make the spine rotate. This can make the shoulders or waist look uneven.

Signs your child may have scoliosis include:

- Uneven shoulders and shoulder blades
- Unequal distance between arms and body
- Uneven hips
- Rib hump (also called rib prominence)
- Lower back hump (also called lumbar prominence)
- More than normal roundness when viewed from the side

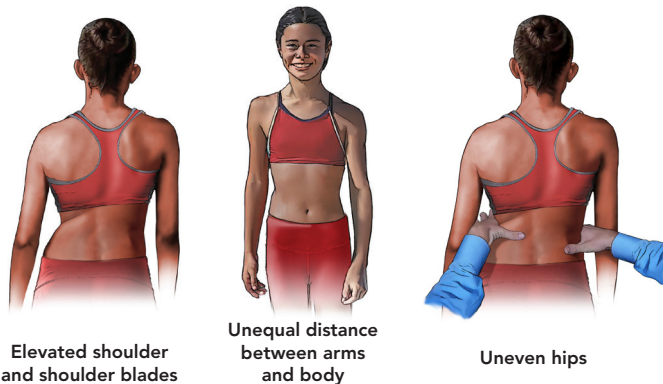
About 2 to 3 percent of children have scoliosis. The cause is usually not known. Most children will not have harmful long-term effects. Some children will develop serious problems later in life if the condition is not treated. A curve in the spine can get worse quickly during the teen years.

Untreated scoliosis can cause:

- Crooked appearance of the back
- Uneven curves of the body
- Chronic back pain

Severe cases of scoliosis can cause:

- Curves that continue to get worse
- Heart problems
- Lung problems



How do I know if my child has scoliosis?

A screening is the best way to learn if your child may have scoliosis.

- These screenings can be done at your child's school or doctor's office.
- Screening is simple and painless. It only takes about one minute.
- Screening only detects possible scoliosis.

What if scoliosis is suspected?

Children who have signs of scoliosis based on an initial school screening will need to go to the doctor or the Children's Scoliosis Screening Program for a full exam and X-ray if needed.

- Some referred children and teens require a follow-up at six months or one year.
- A few children and teens may need medical treatment such as bracing or surgery.
- There are no restrictions on sports or activities during check-ups.

How can I be sure my child is screened for scoliosis?

- Children ages 10 through 15 should be screened for scoliosis each year.
- Your child also can be screened at the doctor's office.
- Georgia public school systems offer free screenings during the middle school years.

