

Accessing Our Program

Appointments

Patients under age 3: (415) 476-7324

Patients 3 years and older: (415) 514-5712

Location

Nancy Friend Pritzker
Psychiatry Building
675 18th St., Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94107



More information

ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/healthy-hearts

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Care Team

Stephany Cox, PhD

Co-Director
Pediatric neuropsychologist

Shabnam Peyvandi, MD

Co-Director
Pediatric cardiologist

Dawn Gano, MD, MAS

Pediatric neurologist

Hannah Glass, MD, MAS

Pediatric neurologist

Patrick McQuillen, MD

Pediatric critical care specialist

Rebecca Rapoport, PNP

Pediatric nurse practitioner

Elizabeth Rogers, MD

Neonatologist

Healthy Hearts and Minds Program



The Healthy Hearts and Minds Program identifies neurodevelopmental problems in patients with complex heart defects and addresses them early, when treatment can make the greatest impact.

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Our Program

Thanks to medical and surgical advances, more and more children born with complex heart defects are surviving and growing to adulthood. As the number of survivors has increased, experts have found that these children are at greater risk for developmental and neurological problems as they grow up. Even for children who reach early milestones on time, difficulties may emerge in later years. These may include issues with behavior, social interaction, motor skills, feeding, school performance, and speech and language development.

The Healthy Hearts and Minds Program was created to identify neurodevelopmental problems in children of all ages, with a particular focus on infants and toddlers. Our mission is to ensure a healthy and productive life for all of our patients.

UCSF is also leading research on the neurodevelopmental effects of congenital heart disease. Our patients will be among the first to benefit from new findings.

Our Services

Our team includes specialists with expertise in congenital heart disease, including pediatric cardiologists, neonatologists, neuropsychologists, nurses, dietitians and social workers. Together, we provide:

- Screening for developmental challenges for infants and toddlers
- Nutritional counseling
- Social work support, including help finding programs and resources in your community
- Comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations for school-age children
- Treatment recommendations and referrals as needed
- Neurological evaluations as needed

Our services supplement, but do not replace, care from your child's pediatrician and cardiologist.



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Scheduled Evaluations

Our patients receive early developmental screening through the UCSF Intensive Care Nursery Follow-Up Program until 3 years of age. For school-age children, a pediatric neuropsychologist conducts a more comprehensive evaluation to identify a child's neurocognitive strengths and challenges. Our program consists of the following evaluations:

- 6 months of age: Developmental screening and evaluation by specialists in cardiology, nutrition and social work
- 18 months of age: Developmental screening, with nutrition and social work services as needed
- 30 months of age: Developmental screening, with nutrition and social work services as needed
- 4 to 5 years of age: Neurodevelopmental evaluation and school readiness screening by a pediatric neuropsychologist
- 10 to 12 years of age: Comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation by a pediatric neuropsychologist

For children with developmental concerns, we may recommend additional visits between these benchmark evaluations.

Our team works with families to develop a supportive plan for each child, tailoring recommendations for accommodations, services and interventions across home, school and community settings. For young children or those with significant challenges, this may include referrals to regional centers—nonprofit organizations that provide and/or coordinate services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Our team may also communicate with your child's school and local providers as needed.