The impact of gait analysis has changed how children with walking difficulties are diagnosed and treated. Gait analysis has allowed us to be much more specific about surgery and the surgery we’re doing has more predictable results.”

Freeman Miller, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
Medical Director of Gait Analysis Laboratory

Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children offers a treatment philosophy and level of care and comfort that sets the standard for children’s health care. Nestled among beautifully landscaped gardens, lush lawns, sunlight and fresh air, the 200-bed teaching hospital offers pediatric specialty care in a patient- and family-centered environment.

To schedule an appointment with the Gait Lab, please call (302) 651-4248

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Metabolic Analysis: A small breathing mask is worn to measure the volume and percentage of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the child's expired air. Along with heart rate and respiratory rate, this information suggests the energy expenditure and overall efficiency of the child's gait.

Who Should Be Referred for an Appointment

The present focus of the clinical gait laboratory is on detailed assessment of children with neurological disorders. Appropriate referrals include children with cerebral palsy, myelomeningocele, other neuromuscular conditions that cause significant impediment to gait, and when a major change in treatment is being considered (e.g., surgery, therapy, orthotics). The child must be cooperative in all modes of testing for a valid evaluation to be conducted.

The data collection should take two hours. After motion data is processed, it is combined with the physical examination and interpreted by the team. The final report will be available to the referring physician within five to six weeks. It is therefore imperative that the gait analysis be requested and scheduled with adequate time before any intervention is scheduled.

New referrals may be made for children up to the age of 18 by calling (302) 651-4248.