Congenital Pulmonary Airway Malformation (CPAM)

What is Congenital Pulmonary Airway Malformation (CPAM)?

CPAM is a tissue mass or cysts that grow on a baby's lung when developing in the womb. A cyst is a closed sac of tissue. Most babies do not have other health issues related to CPAM.

Some CPAM facts

- CPAM is a congenital health problem, which means babies are born with it.
- Usually, only one lung is affected.
- It may also be called CCAM (congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation).
- If there are no symptoms after birth, the surgery team will follow up a few weeks after you go home. In most cases surgery happens many months later.

What are the types of Congenital Pulmonary Airway Malformation (CPAM)?

There are five types of CPAM:

Type 0

- Very rare
- Causes small cysts all over the lungs
- Babies have a hard time getting the oxygen they need after birth
- Babies can be very sick and have serious health problems

Type I

- Most common
- If the cysts are small, usually there aren't problems with breathing
- If the cysts are larger, babies may have a hard time breathing
- Cysts may need to be removed by surgery because they can cause infections and cancer later in life

Type II

- Causes cysts that blend with the normal lung tissue
- Often seen with other health problems at birth, such as:
  - Tracheoesophageal fistula – An extra opening between the food tube (esophagus) and breathing tube (trachea) that makes it hard to eat, swallow and breathe

- Esophageal atresia – Narrowing of the food tube (esophagus).
- Kidney malformations
- A low risk for cancer later in life

Type III

- Causes many, very large cysts that result in a lot of breathing problems in babies
- A low risk for cancer later in life

Type IV

- May cause air to be trapped between the chest and lung that can result in the lung collapsing or infection
- A high risk of lung cancer later in life