Welcome to Boston Children’s Hospital’s Orthopedic Center

From infants with complex congenital conditions to adolescents with sports injuries, Boston Children’s Orthopedic Center is committed to providing care for children, teens and young adults from around the globe, across the U.S. and New England.

Compassionate, collaborative care
Our doctors practice compassionate, collaborative care—we partner with your physicians to help you and your family focus on the path to wellness.

Innovation: translating research into care
The caregivers in our Orthopedic Center are world leaders in pediatric research and are dedicated to developing and applying promising innovations to help our patients.

Boston Children’s Hospital is honored to be recognized as the #1 Children’s Hospital by both U.S. News & World Report and Parents Magazine.

AARON
Aaron Findlay traveled with his mom, Lisa, from Idaho to Boston where Drs. Michael Glotzbecker and Daniel Hedequist worked as part of a multidisciplinary team to complete his lifesaving spinal surgery.

“You want a hospital with the best technology and the best nurses and doctors. Boston Children’s has all of that. What made the difference was how much everyone loves these kids. Every surgeon, nurse’s aide and janitor was on a mission to help Aaron.” —Lisa Findlay

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Spinal Program

Our Spinal Program is a team of pediatric spine surgeons, nurses, orthotists who make braces, physical therapists and social workers.

Our doctors:
- practice patient-centered spinal care and focus on supporting the entire family through the treatment process.
- are early adopters of the MAGEC (MAGnetic Expansion Control) System, a non-invasive adjustable growing rod system that can reduce the number of surgeries for certain patients with spinal deformities.
- were involved in the development of the VEPTR™ (Vertical Expandable Prosthetic Titanium Rib) for treatment of congenital scoliosis and thoracic insufficiency syndrome.
- participated in the Bracing in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Trial (BrAIST), which provided strong evidence for the value of bracing patients with scoliosis.

Download *Embrace the Brace*, which features advice and support for successful brace wear from Boston Children’s patients and caregivers.

“"My mom and dad stayed right by my bed, and the anesthesiologist told me corny jokes when he was giving me the anesthesia. He was trying to make me feel better and also making sure the laughing gas was working.” —Abby Taylor

ABOUT

Dr. John Emans performed the first MAGEC operation at Boston Children’s to correct 12-year-old Abby Taylor’s scoliosis.

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Child and Young Adult Hip Preservation Program

Boston Children’s hip team specializes in the care of hip disorders in children and young adults. Our surgeons treat hip dysplasia, labral tears, hip impingement (FAI) and many other conditions. We are innovators and experts—many patients benefit from our use of minimally invasive surgical approaches and advanced imaging tools.

Minimally invasive surgery: FAI and labral tears

Our surgical approach focuses on repairing both the labral tear and the FAI to prevent re-injury or further joint damage. “Dr. Kocher told me that whether I sat at a desk or ran marathons my whole life, I would have had the same injury. He was the first person who I felt was completely coherent, on the mark and really honest. Talking to him was the game changer for me,” says David, a 30-something yoga instructor. Kocher recommended immediate arthroscopic surgery on both of David’s hips to repair the labral tears and treat his FAI.

Innovations in imaging

Our surgeons collaborated with radiologists to develop more precise ways of imaging that lead to more accurate diagnoses and treatments. The dGEMRIC MRI technique they developed is used to assess early osteoarthritis in patients with hip conditions and is proven to be more sensitive than standard x-rays in detecting arthritis.

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 KRISTINA

Kristina Simonson is a two-sport college athlete with hip dysplasia and patient of Dr. Young-Jo Kim. Boston Children’s hip buddy program helps patients connect with others who have successfully recovered from surgery.

“I was very nervous before my surgery. I was able to email my hip buddy, Ally, and ask questions. It helped alleviate my anxiety because she had been through the peri-acetabular osteotomy (hip dysplasia surgery) and was able to return to an active lifestyle. I realized I would be OK.” —Kristina Simonson

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Brachial Plexus and Hand & Upper Extremity Programs

Boston Children’s Hand and Orthopedic Upper Extremity Program offers expert care for children with complex congenital anomalies, fractures and injuries to the hand and upper extremity. The program provides surgical excellence and focuses on supporting families to help each child develop optimum function.

Our Brachial Plexus Program provides complete care—from early nerve surgery and early therapy to later reconstructive orthopedic surgery and therapy if needed—for infants, children and teens with a brachial plexus birth injury to spinal nerves.

Ten-year-old Jen Castro, from New Fairfield, CT, was born a below-the-elbow amputee. She is an avid softball player. After attending the Wounded Warrior Softball Kids Camp in 2014, Jen learned that life without a limb is limitless.

“Many brachial plexus patients excel despite the limits of the affected arm. If a child has the drive, talent and passion for sports, a brachial plexus injury won’t hold her back.”

—Dr. Peter Waters, Orthopedic Surgeon-in-Chief
Sports Medicine and ACL Program

Boston Children’s Sports Medicine is the first and largest pediatric sports medicine center in the U.S. and cares for all types of athletes from aspiring novices to Olympic athletes.

Our ACL Program delivers innovative treatments. Surgeons use ACL reconstruction techniques customized to each patient’s age and physical maturity. Our team, along with The Micheli Center for Sports Injury Prevention, works with athletes to prepare them to return to play in peak condition.

Pioneering ACL innovations

In 1979, Dr. Lyle Micheli devised a surgical technique that reconstructs a child’s torn ACL without interfering with the growth plate, a concern for younger children with ACL injuries. Today, our surgeons are leading pioneering research to develop a less invasive way to repair torn ACLs. Currently in clinical trials, this surgery uses a bridging scaffold to stimulate the healing of a patient’s own ACL, rather than replacing it.

Sports Medicine provides care to more than 130 organizations and events, including U.S. Lacrosse, the Boston Marathon and U.S. Figure Skating.

Julia Marino, a freestyle skier and 2012 Olympian had her ACL tear repaired by surgeon Dr. Martha Murray.

“I trusted Dr. Murray. It was difficult to stay on the sidelines after I tore my ACL in 2009, but I had seen what happens to athletes who come back too soon.” —Julia Marino

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Meet More of our Patients

**PUCK**

Puck, now 36, was born without an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). When Puck was 2, Dr. Lyle Micheli created a makeshift ACL using the toddler’s iliotibial band. In doing so, he innovated a game-changing surgery to reconstruct a child’s torn ACL and enable a healthy return to activity and sports without risking growth-plate injury.

Puck has skied 1.7 million vertical feet in the last five years.

**TAYLOR**

Taylor approached her pre-operative appointment for scoliosis surgery in tears. “She came out of the appointment smiling. Not many people have that effect on Taylor,” says her mother Holly.

Holly credits Taylor’s orthopedic surgeon Dr. Michael Glotzbecker with her daughter’s 180-degree shift in attitude.

**JULIA**

Julia Duplin was diagnosed with brachial plexus birth palsy and has been a patient at Boston Children’s for 17 years. Today, she’s captain of her high school gymnastics team.
One Center, 13 Programs

» Bone and Soft Tissue Tumor Program
» Brachial Plexus Program
» Cerebral Palsy Program
» Child and Young Adult Hip Preservation Program
» General Orthopedic Program
» Hand and Orthopedic Upper Extremity Program
» Lower Extremity Program
» Orthopedic Trauma Program
» Skeletal Growth Disorders Program
» Spina Bifida Program
» Spinal Program
» Sports Medicine
» Urgent Care Clinic