



Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness

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3rd ANNUAL BRACHIAL PLEXUS INJURY WEEK PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 13-19, 2002

The United Brachial Plexus Network, Inc. (UBPN) and the Awareness Committee are pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week, to be held October 13-19, 2002. Members of the brachial plexus injury community from around the world will be participating in the weeklong event, the goal of which is to increase general awareness regarding brachial plexus injuries: traumatic injuries that can result in full to partial paralysis of one or both arms.

Brachial plexus injuries often occur during the birthing process. Availability of brachial plexus injuries statistics varies widely, but where figures are available the general consensus is that brachial plexus injuries occur in 2-5 out of 1000 births. More children suffer from brachial plexus injuries sustained at birth than Down Syndrome or Muscular Dystrophy – yet information on this disability is not so readily obtained.

Other causes of brachial plexus injuries include: automobile, motorcycle or boating accidents; sports injuries ("burners" or "stingers"); animal bites; gunshot or puncture wounds; as a result of specific medical treatments / procedures / and surgeries or due to viral diseases. Adults who incur traumatic brachial plexus injuries often suffer from severe and chronic pain and struggle to find support, information and adequate medical care.

Events planned for Awareness Week include local and regional gatherings around the world, official state and local proclamation presentations, bell-ringing ceremonies to "Ring in Awareness," candle-lighting ceremonies to "Bring Brachial Plexus Injuries to Light," extensive distribution of informational materials to members of the general population as well as the medical community; local and national media campaigns; and outreach efforts in schools, workplaces, and places of worship.

To learn more about the 3rd Annual Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week, please visit: www.ubpn.org or call them toll-free at 1-866-877-7004.