

# Congenital Birth Deformities



J.C., the son of a doctor, was brought to Dr. Brown at five and a half months of age for correction of his congenital birth deformity. He had previously seen multiple other doctors. This extremely bright little boy was born with a hand deformity whereby the fingers were joined together as seen in the photograph. The middle phalanx was also missing in each finger. J.C.'s parents put their trust in Dr. Brown and after



two reconstructive operations, J.C. has a wonderfully functioning hand. J.C. and his parents drop by to visit Dr. Brown periodically. He is a happy, healthy, beautiful child and is growing and developing normally following his reconstructive surgeries. He is seen here with Dr. Brown at age four years.

**W**e, at The Hand Center, are not only highly skilled in reconstructive procedures for congenital birth deformities but also empathetic to the apprehensions and anxieties of parents. As parents we simply want what's best for our children. We agree. We do not think that is too much to ask for at all.

The most common birth deformity affecting the hand is duplicated or "extra" fingers followed by syndactyly ("webbed fingers") and trigger finger. Children may be born with an absent finger or thumb. Pollicization of the index is our preferred treatment for absent thumb. There may be congenital absence of tendons amenable to tendon transfer.



Each child's hand deformity is unique and requires careful evaluation, planning, and education of the family in addition to a meticulously performed operation. Generally speaking, we begin reconstructive procedures at six months of age. We are extremely sensitive to the emotional needs of the child and the family and make every effort to put everyone at ease while being honest and direct.

## Building a thumb: pollicization



Skin tag thumb

Pollicization

Index to thumb

## A Personal Note

*My heart goes out to children with congenital hand problems as well as their families. Please come see us early. We will do what needs to be done when it needs to be done - no more, no less. We will do everything in our power to give your child the absolute best opportunity for a full unrestricted life. We will help you... especially emotionally.*

Michael G. Brown, MD

## Reconstruction of duplicated thumb

