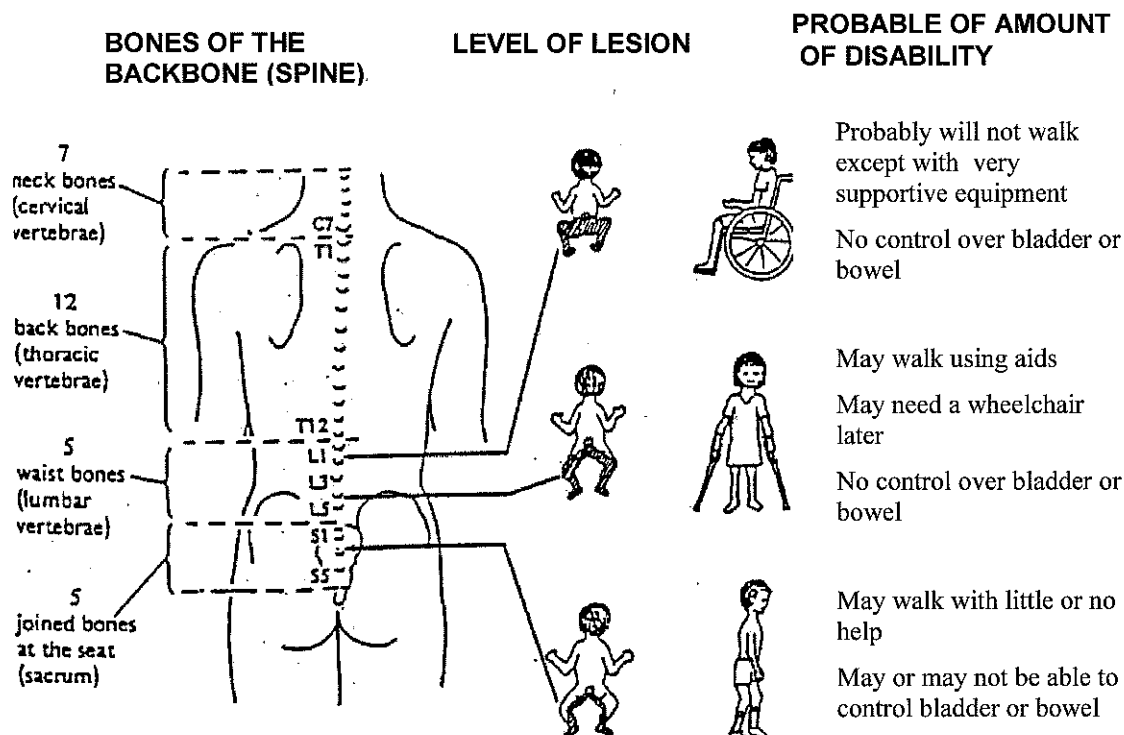


Information Sheet

Level of lesion and walking

What are the chances my child with spina bifida will walk?

This depends on many factors. But generally, the higher up the lesion is on the spine, the more paralysis the child will probably have. The drawings below show how likely it is for the child to walk based on the level of the defect. The shaded areas show the parts of the body affected by paralysis and loss of feeling.



A 2007 study showed that the presence of a shunt for hydrocephalus had a significant affect on walking ability, especially over longer disatances. People with a shunt tended to walk more slowly and with a shorter stride length than those without a shunt for the same lesion level.