



children



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The Role of Orthopedics in Child Development

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Message from the Guest Editors

The origin of the word *orthopaedics* comes from the Greek words for “straightening the child.” The earliest orthopedics and orthopedic centers dealt primarily with deformities of the spine feet (clubfeet), and lower extremities (rickets and congenital hip dysplasia). Modern day orthopedics has a much wider base and represents a gradual union of the practitioners of childhood deformity correction, the reduction of fractures, management of extremity, and replacement of arthritic joints.

Orthopaedics in the 21st century consists of a series of subspecialties: hand, lower extremity trauma, upper extremity injury, spine surgery, pediatric orthopedics and sports medicine, and joint replacement. Frequently, a given practitioner may subspecialize in several areas such as pediatrics and sports medicine.

The role of organized sports exercise in the physical and psychological development of the child is receiving increased attention. Close collaboration of the multiple disciplines and practices addressing the safety and efficacy of childhood exercise and the resulting growth maturation of the whole child is an important goal for all practitioners dealing with the growing child.



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