

# Amniotic Band Syndrome (Constriction Ring Syndrome)



## What is amniotic band syndrome?

Amniotic band syndrome, also known as constriction ring syndrome, happens when fibrous bands of the amniotic sac (the lining inside the uterus that contains a fetus) get tangled around a developing fetus.

In rare cases, the bands wrap around the fetus' head or umbilical cord. Most of the time, the bands wrap around an arm, leg, fingers or toes. This can cause serious constrictions (tightening), acting like a tight rubber band around the body part. Most children with amniotic band syndrome will have bands on more than one part of the body.

The amniotic band might only cause a small dent around a finger or limb. But deeper bands can cause serious swelling, cut off of the flow of blood or keep that part of the body from growing the right way. If a band is tight enough, the constriction may cause an in utero (before birth) amputation (part of the body coming off).

## What causes amniotic band syndrome?

The exact cause of the syndrome is not known. Doctors do not think it is hereditary (passed from parent to child). Many cases seem to happen for no clear reason.

## What conditions are related to amniotic band syndrome?

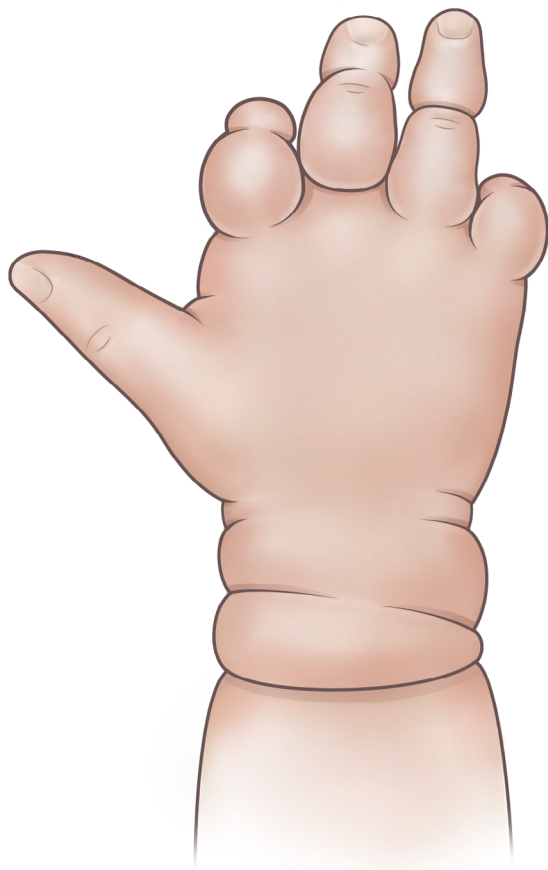
Some children with amniotic band syndrome may also have cleft lip and/or cleft palate. Clubfoot is also commonly seen in association with amniotic band syndrome.

## How common is amniotic band syndrome?

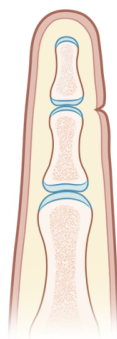
Amniotic band syndrome happens to about 1 out of every 10,000–15,000 babies born. Doctors think it happens more often in the fingers than the toes.

## How is amniotic band syndrome diagnosed?

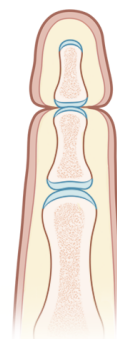
Amniotic band syndrome is sometimes diagnosed before birth with an ultrasound test. Most of the time, it is seen when a baby is born. Your child may have an X-ray to help find out how serious the problem is.



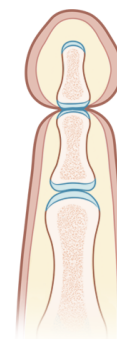
Type 1



Type 2



Type 3



Type 4



