



# Central California Pediatrics

MAY 2019

Specialty information for physicians who treat children and expectant mothers

## Treating Children With Hand and Upper Extremity Problems



### Michael Galvez, MD

Program Director,  
Hand and Upper Extremity Program

Board eligible with specialized training in  
hand and upper extremities, Dr. Michael  
Galvez joined Valley Children's in 2019.

Trauma to the hand and upper extremities are the most common injuries among pediatric populations. These range from finger, hand and wrist injuries that can occur from simple falls and sports-related accidents to masses or complex vascular tumors which can develop at any age. Hand differences that children are born with can occur early in utero and include diagnoses such as arthrogryposis, cerebral palsy, polydactyly, radial club hand and syndactyly.

Comprehensive care and multidisciplinary interventions include observation, hand therapy, splinting, casting and reconstructive surgery to improve the quality of life for children.

### Hand and Upper Extremity Early Intervention

Early intervention can decrease the chances of long-term stiffness, reduced function, poor healing and other hand and upper extremity disabilities. In many cases, the sooner the patient can be treated after a traumatic incident or in the early stages of diagnoses, the more likely the patient is to have successful outcomes with minimally invasive procedures while avoiding further damage.

### Referring for Specialized Care

After any trauma, it is important for patients to be evaluated by their primary care doctor, a local emergency room or urgent care facility. Medical history and physical exams are essential to identify soft tissue, nerve and vascular injuries.

When referring a patient, 3D x-rays, updated immunizations (especially tetanus shot for open injuries) and timely scheduling is essential for initial diagnosis. The patient should manage a well-placed splint, appropriate wound care and proper elevation to avoid further damage until their scheduled appointment.

For congenital differences, patients with conditions similar to syndactyly and symbrachydactyly require x-rays whereas a trigger thumb diagnosis will not unless there is a history of trauma. Other conditions such as radial club hand or thumb hypoplasia will require a genetics referral and full pediatrics work up including a kidney ultrasound and an echocardiogram.

### For physician referrals contact:

**Pediatric Plastic Surgery:** 559-353-6277

**24/7 Access Center:** 866-353-KIDS (5437)

**Outpatient Referral FAX:** 559-353-8888

Referral forms online at [valleychildrens.org/refer](http://valleychildrens.org/refer)

**Valley Children's Hospital: 559-353-3000**

9300 Valley Children's Place, Madera, CA 93636



## Children's Advocacy

### Tim Curley

Director, Community and Government Relations  
Valley Children's Healthcare

### State Legislation

With the state legislative session in full swing, Valley Children's is actively supporting a number of bills, including the five listed below, that we believe will measurably improve the health of children and their mothers. All five bills have passed their first committee hearing.

### Highlighted in the March CCP

1. Assembly Bill 526 would implement expedited enrollment into Medi-Cal for women and children being served through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.
2. Assembly Bill 577 would extend Medi-Cal postpartum care from 60 days to one year for women diagnosed with a maternal mental health disorder.
3. Senate Bill 207 would include asthma preventive services as a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program.

### New Additions

4. Assembly Bill 763 by Assembly Member Adam Gray (Merced) would require the state to convene a workgroup to standardize forms currently used by Medi-Cal managed care plans to determine eligibility and reimbursement for specialty mental health services.
5. Senate Bill 276 by Senator Richard Pan (Sacramento) would require the state to make available a standardized medical exemption request form and to approve or deny medical exemption requests.

### State Budget

Valley Children's is also actively engaged in a number of Governor Newsom's budget proposals, including continuation of an existing \$33 million annual investment in the state's Song Brown primary care graduate medical education program. In 2017, the state made changes to the application that has resulted in pediatric residency programs receiving less than 4% of the available funding. Valley Children's, under the leadership of the California Children's Hospital Association, is requesting that the budget include a total of \$35 million for the Song Brown Program, and a set aside of \$3.2 million (approximately 10%) for pediatric primary care residency programs.

*For questions or more information on these and other issues, feel free to contact Tim Curley at 559-353-8610 or [TCurley@valleychildrens.org](mailto:TCurley@valleychildrens.org)*

## Medical Staff News

The following pediatric specialists recently joined Valley Children's:

### Hospitalist

Sindhura Kodali, MD

### Neonatology

Vanessa Conchina, MD

### Primary Care

Sudha Russell, MD

### Pulmonology

Filomena Villa, MD

## CME Registration

We are pleased to announce a new and enhanced CME registration system. This new system will allow you to create a profile so you can save your information for an easier registration process. You will also be able to check into events you have attended, view presentations, complete evaluations online and print certificates on demand. The system will also allow you to generate a transcript of all the live and online events you have attended, in addition to loading outside credit information for non-Valley Children's events you have attended.

*Questions about registering? Contact us at [programs@valleychildrens.org](mailto:programs@valleychildrens.org) or 559-353-6621.*