Agenesis of corpus callosum (ACC) is a rare disorder that is present at birth. Part or all of the area of the brain that connects the two sides of the brain is missing. ACC can occur as a single condition or with other brain abnormalities.

Diagnosis
During Pregnancy
ACC may be seen during an ultrasound. An MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan may be done to confirm the diagnosis.

After Birth
ACC is often diagnosed in the first 2 years of life. If it is suspected, an MRI or CAT (computerized tomography) scan is done.

Symptoms
In cases of ACC where there are no other brain abnormalities, symptoms may include:

- Seizures
- Developmental delays with motor skills like sitting, walking, and bike riding
- Poor coordination
- Swallowing and feeding problems
- Language and speech delays

Intelligence may be affected, but many children with ACC have normal intelligence and lead normal lives. Other symptoms of brain function such as trouble with abstract reasoning may appear as a child grows older.

Many cases of ACC occur along with other brain abnormalities. These are genetic disorders and usually have more severe symptoms.

Treatment
There is no cure for ACC, but the symptoms can be treated. Medication is used to control seizures if they are present. Physical, occupational, and speech therapy can help with other symptoms or developmental delays.
Causes and Risk Factors

The cause of ACC is usually not known. Risk factors during weeks 12 through 22 of pregnancy that may affect how the corpus callosum is formed include:

- Certain medications (including valproate, an epilepsy medicine)
- Drugs or alcohol
- Viral infections like rubella

Steps to Decrease Risk

Women can take steps before and during pregnancy to reduce the risk of having a baby born with birth defects. These include:

- Seeing a doctor if you are planning to become pregnant or as soon as you suspect you are pregnant and throughout pregnancy.
- Not smoking, drinking alcohol, or taking drugs during pregnancy.
- Taking a daily multivitamin with 400 micrograms (0.4 mg) of folic acid.

For More Information and Support

These organizations provide information, promote research, and offer support for parents and family members:

March of Dimes
www.marchofdimes.com
888-MODIMES (663-4637)

National Organization for Disorders of the Corpus Callosum
www.nodcc.org
714-747-0063