Hypoxia Encyclopedia Article

Hypoxia

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Hypoxia

Lack of oxygen to the brain.

When the cells of the **brain** receive little or no oxygen, irreversible damage is often the result. Hypoxia is the term applied to oxygen starvation of the brain; when the lack of oxygen is more generalized in the whole body, the term **anoxia** is used. Hypoxia may affect the **fetus** prior to **birth,** or may occur during the birth process itself. Premature separation of the placenta is one of the primary reasons for the oxygen supply to be cut off to a fetus during birth. Hypoxia is believed to be a contributing factor in **cerebral palsy** and other developmental disorders.