Reduction Deformity: Upper Limbs

What Is Reduction Deformity: Upper Limb?
- It is the absence of a limb or part of a limb or a shortened limb

Signs and Symptoms
- Missing limbs - complete or partial absence of the upper arm (humerus), lower arm (radius and/or ulna), wrist (carpals), hand (metacarpals), or fingers (phalanges).
- Shortened limbs

Associated Conditions
- There are other associated conditions which occur in approximately 30-50% of the children born with Upper Limb Reduction Deformity. Some of the associated conditions are:
  1. Congenital Heart Disease
  2. Eye Malformations
  3. Kidney Malformations
  4. Intestinal Atresia
  5. Birthmarks
  6. Ear Malformations

What is the cause?
- The cause is often not known, but possible causes include interrupted blood supply during development, “bands” in the amniotic fluid, genetic syndromes, or drugs such as thalidomide
- Recent research has shown that women who get 0.4mg of folic acid per day before they become pregnant and in early pregnancy may have a lower risk of having an infant born with a Upper Limb Reduction Deformity

Is there any treatment?
- Treatment varies pending the medical issue and associated conditions. However, surgery may be needed as well as prostheses and therapy to improve upper limb use
Support Groups/Resources

- Helping Hands Foundation
  www.helpinghandsgroup.org/support_groups.

- Kennedy Krieger Institute
  http://www.kennedykrieger.org
  443-923-9200

- March of Dimes
  www.marchofdimes.com
  1-410-546-2241

- Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs
  http://fha.maryland.gov/genetics/bdris.cfm
  1-800-638-8864

- The Parents’ Place Of Maryland
  www.ppmd.org
  410- 768-9100