## Screen for head, face, and neck symmetry (visualize; measure with calipers)

1. PROPORTION - Cranial Index (CI) Width $\div$ Length $\times 100$; also called Cephalic Ratio
2. ALIGNMENT - Cranial Vault Asymmetry (CVA) also called Diagonal Difference

top down

front


back

bottom up

Note: illustrations do not depict all possible combinations of asymmetry.

## Normocephaly

- CI: >76\% to <90\%; proportion within normal limits (WNL); skull quadrants are relatively equal
- CVA: $\mathbf{0 m m}$ to 5 mm ; diagonal difference WNL; cranial and facial landmarks appear even, aligned


diagonals


## Plagiocephaly

- CI: >76\% to <90\%; CVA: >5mm; severe >10mm
- skull flattening in one area (anterior or posterior) with a compensatory bulge (bossing) in another area
- rule out craniosynostosis, facial bone or neck muscle involvement



## Brachycephaly

- CI: >90\%; disproportional; short wide skull; may include occipital flattening; parietal/temporal widening
- may be symmetric (CVA WNL), or asymmetric (CVA $>5 \mathrm{~mm}$ )
- rule out suture synostosis (coronal, lambdoid)

symmetric

asymmetric

Dolichocephaly (called scaphocephaly before ICD-10)

- CI: <76\%; disproportional; elongated, narrow skull
- may be symmetric (CVA WNL), or asymmetric (CVA $>5 \mathrm{~mm}$ )
- rule out suture synostosis (metopic, sagittal)

symmetric

asymmetric


## Torticollis, or neck muscle asymmetry

- neck muscle shortened, tightened from injury (congenital or acquired)
- often involves sternocleidomastoid muscle (SCM) or trapezius muscle
- highly correlated with plagiocephaly; usually treated with exercise
- may include weak neck muscles; limited range of motion; head tilt; positional preference; shoulder hike on involved side; face rotation to uninvolved side


