

SCREENING WITH EVOKED OTOACOUSTIC EMISSIONS:

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Evoked Otoacoustic emissions (EOAE) is a technique suitable for newborn hearing screening. It is very quick, simple and objective. It explores only till cochlea but it is useful for screening. In our hospital we do universal hearing screening using this technique. We organize this screening in three steps: first test is done in maternity ward before discharge to all newborns by all people in this unit (nurse or paediatrician), those who fail go to external paediatric unit where a unique person repeat the test in first month of life, those who fail this, go to confirm hypoacusia with auditory brain responses (ABR) and if they fail go to ENT service to begin follow up and treatment.

We have tested 1.615 newborns in one and a half year (96.94% of our newborns). On first step 96.78% were normal and 3.22% abnormal. On second step (repeat test on this 3.22% of abnormal): 1.54% went normal and 0.62 persist abnormal and went to ABR: Of this with ABR , 50% were abnormal (0.3% of the whole population).

We think that screening with EOEA is feasible, effective and efficient, keystones are that many people do first step and that a dedicated person do the second, before sending newborn to ABR. It is important to reduce loss of people who must repeat the test, that is the major problem encountered.

