



A Sound Foundation in the Medical Home

PediaLink resource page

Neonatal Hearing Screening

Two general types of tests are used in neonatal screening: OAE and ABR. Today, most equipment uses algorithms that allow rapid screening and automated scoring of the response. This allows trained technicians or hospital personnel, whose primary responsibility is not hearing screening, to efficiently carry out UNHS.

Important considerations in the decision of which type of physiologic technology to use in neonatal screening programs include:

- training and supervision of personnel
- archiving of test results and data management
- target population (desire to identify infants with conductive, sensory or neural impairment)
- available resources (equipment cost; numbers of devices; available time/personnel)
- test environment (noise levels; testing spaces)

Hearing Screening Methods

Characteristic	ABR	OAE
Lower fail rate	<input type="radio"/>	
Identifies neural losses	<input type="radio"/>	
Frequency specific		<input type="radio"/>
Less invasive		<input type="radio"/>
Less sensitive to ear canal and middle ear conditions	<input type="radio"/>	