

Abstract EFAS/DGA 2007

Follow up of neonatal screened babies

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Our hospital covers a region of about 320 000 inhabitants and we have about 2000 newborn infants per year. We are doing the universal neonatal screening for seven years. In last three years 99,3 % of newborn babies were screened. The second stage of screening is made at ENT department. From beginning of 2000 to the end of 2006 we tested 158 babies, those with unilateral (45) or bilateral negative OAE (86) and those with positive OAE (27) and risk factors.

From those 158 babies tested, 15 had conductive loss. We found 11 deaf babies and 4 with a mild hearing loss. In a large group of 86 babies with bilateral negative OAE we found a normal value of ABR in 71 babies. The rest of them (15) had a mild to moderate hearing loss, but after a month the ABR was normal. Parents of all 86 babies got information how to observe hearing. 90 % of them were retested at one year and they had normal OAE and normal ABR. We wanted to follow their hearing later. But only 40 % of them came for testing. For the rest of them we made a statistic about visiting the ENT doctor, prescribing hearing aid and about visiting Center for hearing and speech. It was possible because in our region children are treated in two institutions only, hearing aids are prescribed on one place only and all children that have problems with hearing and speech are treated at one place. We found no permanent hearing loss in this group but also not by children that pass the neonatal screening. Was it coincidence, luck or interest on hearing with neonatal screening, information for parents, early intervention?

