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### **Transient deafness in young candidates for cochlear implants**

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This study describes 7 infants who were diagnosed with auditory neuropathy associated with severe to profound neural hearing loss shortly after birth. Unexpectedly, on repetition of the tests 7-12 months later, all infants showed full or partial recovery. The follow-up electrophysiological patterns were characterized by the appearance of wave I, followed by wave III and V, reflecting synchronization of auditory pathways and improvement in auditory nerve function. Some of the cases showed fluctuations both in behavioral and electrophysiological measures. Suspected causative or contributory factors were neonatal hyperbilirubinemia, hypoxia, ischemia, and central nervous system immaturity, alone or in combination.. These findings indicates that lack of an ABR does not necessarily mean no hearing AND that situation when AN exists can improve. Thus, clinicians should be made aware that although cochlear implants may yield better auditory performance if applied early, they should be considered a therapeutic option only after repeated measures prove persistent auditory neuropathy and no child should be considered for an implant until a behavioral measure of hearing is obtained.

