

## **Abstract EFAS/DGA 2007**

### **UNHS program – preliminary results in Romania**

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#### **Background:**

Bilateral congenital permanent hearing loss has a high incidence in general population (1.3-3.1/1000 live newborns). This handicap is invisible in first couple of years, which urges for early active diagnosis and intervention.

#### **Methods:**

Our National pilot program started in 2006 in three public newborns facilities.

Target population was all alive newborns from these hospitals (between March and December 2006).

Screening Program consists of two steps:

- automatic TEOAE and ABR for full-term healthy newborns in day 3 and 3 days before maternity ward discharge for newborns who needed longer hospitalization;
- second test session (ATEOAE and AABR) for referred newborns in step I.

For infants with referred result in both steps of screening follows objective audiologic session.

#### **Results:**

We tested 8801 (87.05%) newborns in 10 months of UNHS from 10110 alive newborns in three public facilities.

Among them 94 (4.04%) refer in first screening step and 11 (0.12%) refer in second step too. 4 infants (0.45‰) missed follow-up since they didn't come for objective audiologic investigations.

From 7 infants investigated by objective audiologic methods (impedancemetry, TEOAE and DP OAE, ABR and ASSR) in Institute of Phono-Audiology and E.N.T. Functional Surgery 6 (0.68‰) are hearing impaired and 1 (0.11‰) has auditory dis-synchrony.

#### **Conclusions:**

First results of UNHS program consisted in early diagnosis of congenital hearing loss in infants 3-6 months old and fitting appropriate hearing aids in 3 (37.5%) of them.

We consider our protocol of UNHS reliable since fals positive and fals negative rates are similar with those reported in literature.

We concentrate our efforts in enlargement of UNHS pilot program in more public newborns facilities, since we consider very useful to diagnose and treat hearing impaired infants, the only condition which allows normal verbal development.

#### **Literatur:**

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