



NEONATAL SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF HEARING LOST IN THE COMMUNITY OF MADRID

Childhood hearing loss or deafness is the deficient auditory acuity that causes a disability to hear and communicate, at birth or onset in the first days of life. The neonatal screening program aims to detect early hearing loss to perform an early comprehensive intervention and enhance the capacity for oral language and relationship with the newborn's environment.

WHY IS IT DONE?

Hearing loss affects 5 out of every thousand children at birth and has very important consequences because it causes problems learning to speak and communicate with others, and this will affect the rest of their lives.

The sooner you know if your child is unable to hear properly, the sooner he/she can be treated comprehensively and this will improve his/her development, increasing his/her abilities to speak and improve his/her communication.

WHAT TEST IS USED?

The Automated Auditory Brainstem Response test is performed; it is a simple and hassle-free test. Headphones are placed in both ears that send a sound and record the response in automatically registered. This determines whether the newborn's reaction corresponds to a normal auditory response (PASS) or is not adequate (NOT PASS).

WHEN AND WHERE IS IT CARRIED OUT?

This test is carried out on all newborns in the public or private hospitals in the Community of Madrid, after the first **24 hours of life**, whenever possible **before discharge** and in any case before the **first month of life**.

The test should be tried when the baby is calm or asleep.

WHAT CAN BE THE RESULTS?

If the newborn passes the test, it means your child can hear properly at that time the Children's Health Document will be completed. That way, the family, the nurse, and the pediatrician are aware of the test has been carried out and the results.

If the results are not successful or there are any risk's indicator (for example, a family member with hearing problems in the early stages of life) even if you pass the test, this doesn't necessary mean that your child cannot hear properly, but rather that further investigation is necessary. The test must be repeated by the Otolaryngologist as soon as possible and always **before 3 months of life** to confirm or rule out a hearing loss.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

If your baby has a confirmed hearing loss, it should be included in a multidisciplinary program to establish the necessary treatment and provide families with individualized support and specific information for speaking development and communication, as soon as possible and always **before 6 months**.

It is recommended to perform follow-up reviews in the Otolaryngology service.

