



# Recommendations for monitoring hearing in children using a risk factor registry

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# Background

- To provide recommendations for risk factor registries incorporated within targeted surveillance programs

Beswick, R., Driscoll, C., & Kei, J. (2012). Monitoring for postnatal hearing loss using risk factors: A systematic literature review. *Ear & Hearing*, 33, 745-756.

Beswick, R., Driscoll, C., Kei, J., & Glennon, S. (2012). Targeted surveillance for postnatal hearing loss: A program evaluation. *International Journal of Pediatric Otolaryngology*, 78, 1046-1056.

Beswick, R., Driscoll, C., Kei, J., Khan, A., & Glennon, S. (2013). Which risk factors predict postnatal hearing loss in children? *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 24(3), 205-213.



# Queensland's risk factor registry

- **Family history of permanent childhood hearing loss** (mother/father/siblings of baby only excluding grommets/ear infections/trauma)
- **Syndromes** associated with hearing loss (e.g., Down Syndrome, FAS)
- **Prolonged ventilation** = 5 days (IPPV/CPAP)
- **Bacterial meningitis** (confirmed/suspected)
- **Low birth weight** = 1500 grams
- **Severe asphyxia** at birth (convulsions/HIE/PPHN)
- **Craniofacial anomalies**, e.g., cleft palate (excluding cleft lip & skin tags)
- **Hyperbilirubinemia** levels = 450 $\mu$ mol/l (Term) or = 340 $\mu$ mol/l (preterm)
- **Proven/suspected congenital infection** of the baby (Toxoplasmosis, Rubella, CMV, Herpes, Syphilis)
- **Professional concern**

Grade	Recommendation	Description
<b>A</b>	<b>Monitor</b>	Collective evidence generally offers strong support for monitoring. e.g., existence of cohort studies indicating cases of postnatal hearing loss in children with the risk factor in isolation + a positive yield + positive relationship/significant Chi-squared correlation + $OR > 1$
<b>B</b>	<b>Potentially Monitor</b>	Overall findings are mixed; however, some or most indicate support for monitoring as per grading A
<b>C</b>	<b>Lack of Evidence</b>	Collective evidence is lacking. e.g., no literature evidence or case studies only; +/- presence of complicating risk factors; and/or logistic regression not completed. Alternatively, overall findings may be highly mixed/inconclusive.
<b>D</b>	<b>Potentially Don't Monitor</b>	Overall findings are mixed; however, some or most indicate support for not monitoring as per grading E
<b>E</b>	<b>Don't Monitor</b>	Collective evidence generally offers strong support for not monitoring. e.g., existence of cohort studies indicating no/limited cases of postnatal hearing loss and complicating risk factors present + nil yield + negative relationship/insignificant Chi-squared correlation + $OR = 1$



# Family History

SLR

- Limited evidence
- Three studies were identified that reported on postnatal hearing loss (Robertson et al., 2006)
- Difficult to establish the relationship between (i) children with a hearing loss or (ii) children who developed a postnatal hearing loss and more than one risk factor

OLD

- A study of 56 children with a postnatal hearing loss revealed a positive correlation between family history and postnatal hearing loss [ $\chi^2(1) = 16.9, p < 0.001$ ]
- A regression analysis revealed that children with family history as a risk factor were twice more likely to develop a postnatal hearing loss than those without family history (OR: 1.92; 95% CI: 1.04-3.56)

# Syndromes

SLR

- Limited evidence
- Only one child with Branchio-oto-renal syndrome in the literature who passed the SLR test with a postnatal hearing loss (p. 100)
- This child also had a cleft palate and ear pits

OLD

- Surprisingly, only 19.6% (11/56) of children with a postnatal hearing loss had a cleft palate
- Logistic regression analysis revealed a positive correlation between cleft palate and postnatal hearing loss [ $\chi^2(1) = 32.2, p < 0.001$ ]
- Logistic regression could not be completed due to issues of multicollinearity with craniofacial anomalies

POTENTIALLY MONITOR

# Prolonged Ventilation

SLR

- Evidence not definitive due to other complications
- Other risk factors include asphyxia, fetal diaphragmatic hernia (Masumoto et al., 1984)
- For children who had received prolonged ventilation, 19.6% of children developed a postnatal hearing loss (1998, Fligor et al., 2005)

OLD

- Surprisingly, no statistically significant correlation was present in 19.6% (11/56) of children with a postnatal hearing loss
- Logistic regression analysis revealed a positive correlation between prolonged ventilation and postnatal hearing loss [ $\chi^2(1) = 6.0, p=0.014$ ]
- Logistic regression could not be completed due to issues of multicollinearity with low birth weight

POTENTIALLY MONITOR

# Bacterial Meningitis

SLR

- **Limited evidence** as a substantial number of studies were excluded due to the exclusion criteria
- Two studies included (Thiringer et al)
- Difficult to establish natural history of bacterial meningitis in only children with a hearing loss as children had other risk factors

QLD

- Little evidence from the literature
- Children referred for bacterial meningitis who passed hearing tests and developed a postnatal hearing loss
- Children in QLD have developed a hearing loss subsequent to bacterial meningitis during childhood. However, these children are excluded from analysis of a targeted surveillance program as they were identified due to medical referral

POTENTIALLY DON'T  
MONITOR



# Low Birth Weight

SLR

- Some evidence
- One high quality cohort study (Salam
- 6/224 children (2.7%) developed postnatal hearing loss
- All 6 children had other risk factors

OLD

- Surveillance monitoring
- Study of 156 children with a postnatal hearing loss revealed a significant negative relationship between birth weight and postnatal hearing loss
- Regression analysis revealed that children with LBW as a risk factor were one-tenth more likely to develop a postnatal hearing loss than those with normal birth weight (OR: 0.14; 95% CI: 0.05-0.39)

DON'T MONITOR

# Severe Asphyxia

SLR

- Some evidence
- One high quality cohort study
- 4/40 children (10%) developed hearing loss

OLD

- In children with severe asphyxia, hearing loss was present in 16.1% (9/56) of children
- Factor analysis revealed no significant correlation between severe asphyxia and postnatal hearing loss

LACK OF EVIDENCE

# Craniofacial Anomalies

SLR

- Limited evidence
- Weichbold et al., 2006
  - 2/23 children (8.7%) with a postnatal hearing loss and ear pits developed a postnatal hearing loss
- Roth et al., 2008
  - 1/637 children (0.2%) with a postnatal hearing loss and ear pits developed a postnatal hearing loss

OLD

- Surin et al., 2011
  - Present in 17.9% (10/56) of children with a postnatal hearing loss
- Regression analysis revealed a positive correlation between craniofacial anomalies and postnatal hearing loss [ $\chi^2(1) = 5.4, p=0.020$ ]
- Regression analysis revealed that children with craniofacial anomalies as a risk factor were more than two times more likely to develop a postnatal hearing loss than those without craniofacial anomalies (OR: 2.61; 95% CI: 1.19-5.70)

# Hyperbilirubinemia

SLR

- Limited evidence
- One case report only was identified
- This child had other contraindications to phototherapy including family history

POTENTIALLY DON'T  
MONITOR

OLD

- Limited evidence
- Hyperbilirubinemia present in 3.6% (2/56) of children with postnatal hearing loss
- Factor analysis revealed no significant relationship between hyperbilirubinemia and postnatal hearing loss

# Congenital Infection (TORCH)

SLR

- Evidence for CMV and toxoplasmosis only
- CMV
  - 1.3%-5.6% (asymptomatic) and 5.7% of children developed a postnatal hearing loss (Brown et al., 2007)
- Toxoplasmosis
  - No evidence associated with postnatal hearing loss (Brown et al., 2009)

OLD

- Literature review present in 3.6% (2/56) of children with postnatal hearing loss
- Factor analysis revealed no significant relationship between congenital infection and postnatal hearing loss



# Professional Concern

SLR

- Not explicitly reported in the literature
- May incorporate factors such as age, ototoxic therapy, and GA
- Complex cases so difficult to monitor for the hearing loss

OLD

- N... developed a postnatal hearing loss
- ... professional concern
- ... factor analysis revealed no significant correlation between professional concern and postnatal hearing loss

POTENTIALLY DON'T MONITOR

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