

AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE (ABR) FINDINGS IN HIGH-RISK AND NORMAL BABIES

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This paper reports on the comparison of the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) parameters such as threshold, latencies and morphology obtained in high-risk and normal babies. Thirty high-risk babies were identified from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), HBKL for this project. Twenty normal babies born in Maternity Ward, Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia were also included in this project. ABR and Tympanometry tests were used to assess their hearing at 41-45 conceptual age. Eighteen high-risk babies failed ABR tests, with mean threshold at 13 dB nHL higher than normal babies. Absolute latency for Wave I and Wave V showed significant difference between the two groups. Interpeak latency for Wave III-V also showed statistically significant difference between the two groups. However, there is no significant difference in morphology of ABR waves. These findings highlight the importance of using ABR test in identifying hearing impairment, especially in high-risk babies.

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