Assessment of the Newborn Begins with the Assessment of the Mother

- Age
- Social Factors
- Past Medical History including menstrual and fertility accounts
- Relevant Family History
- Current Health Status
- Physical & Laboratory Exams including infectious disease screening

Objectives

- State in sequence the components of the physical assessment of a normal newborn
- Identify the assessment criteria for each component of the physical assessment
- Discuss the assessment findings including common variations for a normal newborn
- Identify a minimum of 5 reflexes exhibited by a newborn
- Describe the procedure for gestational age assessment
Gravity and Parity

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Ongoing Assessment of Mom and Baby throughout Pregnancy

- Assessment of growth patterns and fetal well-being
- Genetic Screening
- Ultrasound
- Maternal Serum Alpha-Fetoprotein Screening (MSAFP)
- Amniotic Fluid levels
- Ongoing appraisal of social issues and infectious disease risks
- Indications of Maternal Health and well-being

Continued Assessment of Mother and Baby Throughout Labor & Delivery

- Maternal
  - Wellness
  - Labor patterns
  - Selection of Analgesia
  - Fever
  - ROM
And Delivery

- Fetal
  - Presentation
  - Fetal Heart Rate patterns
  - Meconium

APGAR Score

5 category system each worth 2 points. Higher than 7, baby is doing well. Less than 7, baby is struggling.

Taken at 1 minute to determine how well the baby tolerated the birthing process and at 5 minutes to determine how well the baby is transitioning.

A- appearance
P- pulse
G- grimace
A- activity
R- respirations

Physical Assessment – Skin

Pink Color- Normal

Flaking
Physical Assessment – Skin

- Acrocyanosis
- Dusky

Forceps marks & Facial Bruising

Lanugo, Milia, Mottling
Vernix

Jaundice & Erythema Toxicum

Skin Discolorations: Mongolian spots
Skin Discolorations: stork bites,

Petechiae, Hemangioma, & Portwine Staining

Albinism, Pale ocular fundus of Albinism, & Pigment concentration in Infant of Color
Nevus Sebaceous

Café au lait spots

Skin tags
Physical Assessment: The Head Cranial Sutures, Fontanelles, & Measurement

Hydrocephaly and Microcephaly

Caput Succedaneum & Cephalohematoma
Physical Assessment: The Eyes Edematous Lids, Subconjunctival Hemorrhage

- May Fix on objects
- May follow moving object to midline
- Absence of Tears
- Irises: Dark Blue, Brown, Slate Gray

Up-slanting Palpebral Fissures

- Also look for bilateral red reflex.
- Be alert to cloudy corneas (congenital glaucoma) or cloudy pupils (congenital cataracts)
Physical Assessment: Ears

Loud Noise Elicits Startle Reflex
Normal finding - top of pinna horizontal to outer canthus of eye
Pinna Well formed, Flexible, and Cartilaginous

Variations: Ear Pit, Microtia, Stahl Ear

Ear Tag & Hypoplastic Low Set Ear
Physical Assessment: The Nose

Variations – Bohns Nodules (Epstein Pearls), Enlarged Salivary Glands

Physical Assessment: The Mouth
Normal mouth & tongue, variations
Milk Tooth, Ankyloglossia (Tongue tie),
Post Clipping

Cleft Lip and Palate

Physical Assessment – Neck
Physical Assessment - Chest

- Normal – slight barrel shaped with equal AP A& Lateral diameters
- Assess for breath sounds & PMI
- Assess for heart rate, rhythm, presence of murmur
- Prominent ziphoid process
- May have accessory nipple

Enlarged breast tissue, excessive barrel chest, intercostal retractions

Physical Assessment - Abdomen

- Liver: 1-3 cm below Rt. Costal margin
- Kidneys – locate umbilicus – measure 1-2 cm above and to the sides bilaterally
- Bowel sounds?
- Three Vessel Cord?
Physical Assessment - Genitalia

Normal Term Female Appearance, Hymeneal Orifice, Hymeneal tag

(Where are the examiners gloves?)
Neurological Assessment

- Reflexes
  - Rooting
  - Sucking
  - Palmar and Plantar Grasps
  - Moro Reflex
  - Babinski reflex
  - Walking Reflex

Neurological Assessment: Tone

- Tone & Habituation
- Flexion
- Resistance
- Leg recoil
- Head Lag
- Vertical Suspension

Estimation of Gestation Age: Ballard
**TOTAL SCORES (NEUROMUSCULAR + PHYSICAL)**

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References:
Skin, Lanugo, Heel Creases, Nipples

Eyes, Ears, Testes, Labia Majora and Minora

Assessment of the Newborn - Measurements

- Weight
- Head Circumference
- Chest Circumference
- Length
- Vital Signs
Lastly – Plot out your measurements against your Ballard score

- Small for Gestational Age?
- Average for Gestational Age?
- Large for Gestational Age?
- Microcephaly?
- Macrocephaly?

Any Questions?
References

