

AABR Screening Tips: Newborn Hearing Screening

Minnesota Newborn
Screening Program



Preparation 1

- Perform screen when infant is >12 hours old and 15-20 minutes after feeding
- Infant should be swaddled
- Gently massage ear to move ear canal debris
- Warm sensors in your hand to increase stickiness
- Use Nuprep[®] gel or mild cleanser to clean skin (wipe off excess gel before placing sensors)
 - Creates good sensor contact with skin
 - Critical for good impedance and shorter test time
 - Never use alcohol; it can increase impedance



Newborn ears can be full of sticky debris.

Before setting up for the screen, massage the ear for about 10-15 seconds. Pull the pinna (outer ear) up and out to help open the ear canal.

Setup 2

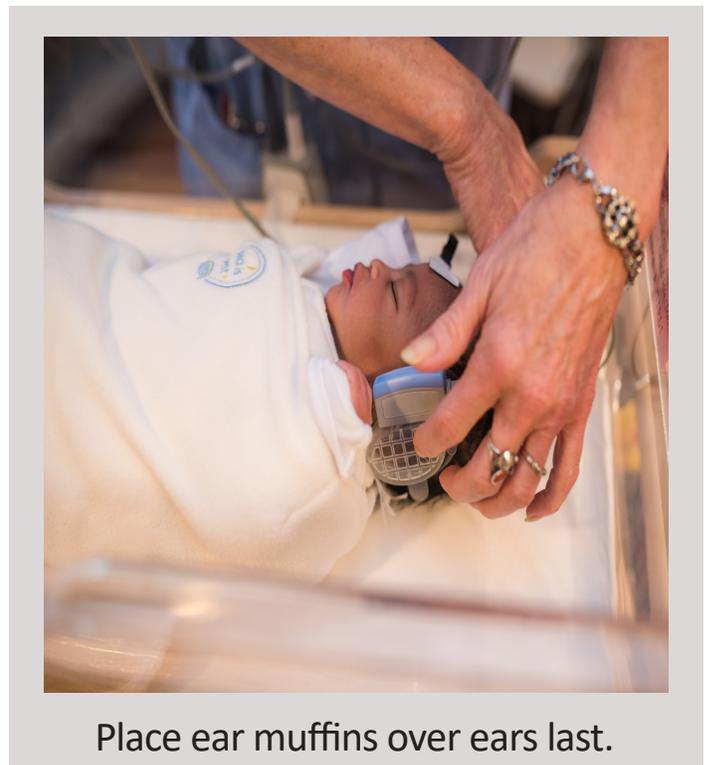
- Clip sensor lead wires to the sensors before applying to infant
- Place sensor at location specified by the manufacturer
- Use firm pressure when placing sensors to make sure they stick
- If nape of neck location is used, place nape sensor between the infant's extra neck-skin folds and not on the back



Setup Continued 3

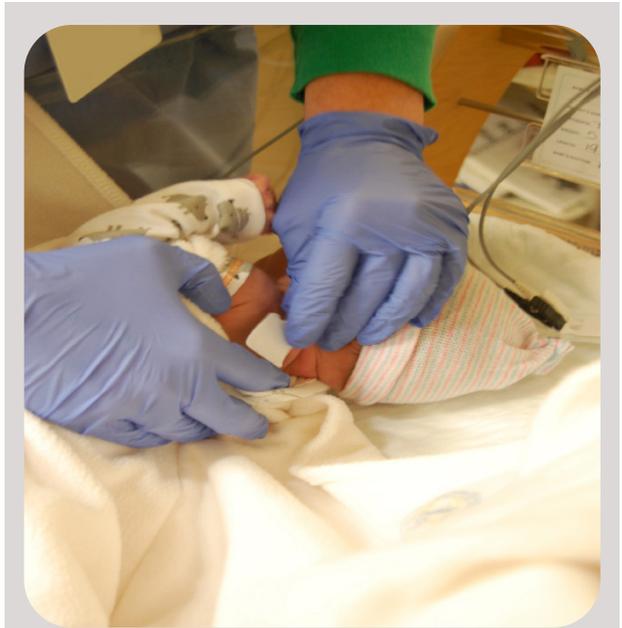
- Ensure that impedance meets specifications Recommended by the manufacturers. This is very important for completion of a successful screening
- Use a drop of water or saline on sensor if impedance is high
- Connect cords to ear muffins, then place over ears last
- Extend all cords above the infant's head and away from the body

RED = Right ear; BLUE = Left ear



Tips 4

- Average screening time is between 2-4 minutes or newer devices and should not typically exceed 12 minutes for older devices.
- If these times are exceeded regularly, first look at prep issues and impedance, infant state, then consider environment or equipment issues
- If you are experiencing high impedance, check the following:
 - Are the sensors stuck on the infant's clothes?
 - Do you need to add a drop of water onto the sensor?
 - Do you need to re-scrub the sensor site?



If you note high impedance, check the sensors.

Tips 5

If you are experiencing high noise/myogenic activity and the infant is asleep, check the following:

- Does the infant's neck need to be repositioned?
- Are you 8-10 feet away from electrical interference?
- *Be aware of cell phones, pagers, lights on dimmer switch, other computer monitors, bili lights, and warming blankets as they can cause interference*



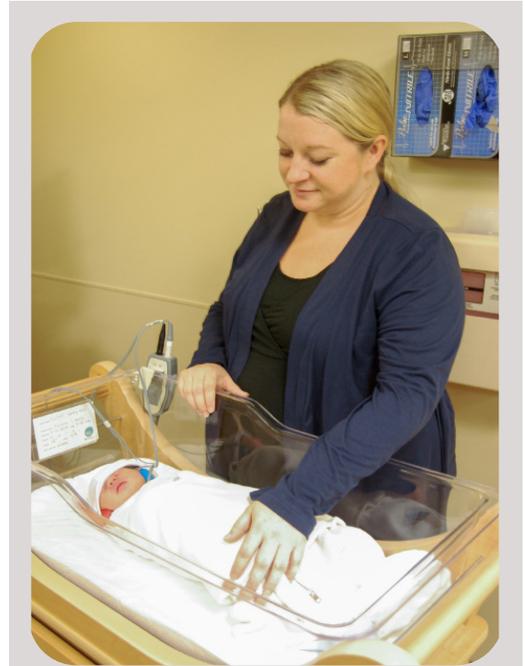
Computer monitors, dimmer switches, cell phones, and bili lights are just a few of the electronic items that may cause interference for ABR equipment.

Tips 6

- Place hands firmly on the infant to calm them or hold the infant briefly to help reduce fidgeting
- Re-swaddle if needed
- Use water to saturate and soften the adhesive on the sensors for easier removal



A sleeping infant is necessary for accurate results.



A firm, comforting hand on the infant will quickly calm them.

