



NHS Northwest
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registration

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To the parents

Newborn Hearing Screening Information

Why is a hearing screening test recommended in the babyhood?

Normal hearing is a main requirement for the development of speech and language. Since the fundamental knowledge of the language is acquired within the first two years of life, it is significant to detect and treat a hearing defect or hearing loss as early as possible. In Germany approx. two from a thousand babies are born with a severe hearing loss.

What are the consequences for these children?

A reduced hearing capacity is becoming conspicuous with a part of these children only at the age of 12 to 18 months. Most parents find that their child is speaking less than other children or the child is identified as probably hard of hearing at one of the regular newborn checkups. The lower the degree of hearing loss is, the later it is detected. However, hearing has an enormous significance in the first year of life. *The late detection of hearing loss is leading to a delayed language development and to a general developmental delay. Innovative hearing screenings do allow to detect a hearing defect almost immediately after birth.*

Diagnostic tests

Hearing screening tests are already run in the maternity clinic. *They are absolutely painless, without any side effects and do not put a strain on your child.* They are carried out by clinic staff or an ear, nose and throat specialist. (We kindly ask you not to use oil bath or body lotion for your child before the screening. Your child can ideally be tested if it is tired and has just been fed.)

Only one of a thousand newborn babies suffer from a hearing impairment. Should the result of the screening indicate that your child may be hard of hearing, it is essential to repeat the test after two weeks. The clinic staff will inform you about the further procedure. Should the repeat screening again have a conspicuous result, it is recommended to consult a paedaudiologic institution for further diagnostics.

Few children become hard of hearing when they are older (i. e. after an otitis media). Should you assume that your child suffers from a hearing impairment, please contact your paediatrician, an ear, nose and throat specialist or a paedaudiologic institution.

The screening data (screening passed/failed) will be stored in the centre of newborn hearing screening within the Hörzentrum Oldenburg. Only for those children with conspicuous results name and address will be stored to be able to get in contact with the parents. This shall ensure that no necessary re-screening is missed. The data of all healthy children will be made anonymous before transfer. All data is stored for a period of five years and scientifically analysed within this time to promote quality assurance. Data will not be transferred to third parties. All data protection regulations will be kept strictly.