

panel. This does not mean that the baby definitely has a medical condition. In fact, most babies who receive positive results do not have the condition of concern. However, follow-up testing must be performed immediately to determine if a condition is actually present. Each condition has a unique confirmatory test



Neonatal Screening Tests



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Neonatal Screening Tests

Most babies are born healthy. However, some infants have a serious medical condition even though they look and act like all newborns.

Newborn screening allows health professionals to identify and treat certain conditions before they make a baby sick.

Most babies with these conditions who are identified at birth and treated early are able to grow up healthy with normal development

Newborn screening tests used to identify infants who are more likely to have the condition being screened and includes



It is important for parents to remember that these are screening tests. Any abnormal result will require further testing to make a diagnosis.

Pulse oximetry:

tests the oxygen in your infant's blood to check for congenital heart defects (heart defects that are present at birth). Oxygen sensors are taped to the right hand and either foot to make sure the blood has enough oxygen. Infants who do not pass pulse oximetry screening may be referred to a pediatric cardiologist or for an echocardiogram (heart ultrasound) to see if they have a heart problem causing low oxygen. If a heart defect is identified early, treatment can begin early, which improves survival among infants with certain types of heart defects.

Newborn hearing screening:

Helps identify infants with hearing loss. Infants who do not pass initial hearing screening are referred to

a hearing specialist for further testing. Infants who are found to have hearing loss can receive early treatment, such as being fitted with hearing aids. Because infants need to be able to hear to learn to talk, identifying hearing loss early is critical for their development. Some children develop hearing loss when they are older, so parents need to remain alert to the possibility of hearing problems and talk with their infant's primary care physician about any concerns.

Blood testing:

blood is collected from an infant's heel and placed onto special paper. It can then be used to test for conditions such as sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, PKU, and many other conditions. If the test result is positive, follow-up testing will help make a diagnosis. Treatments can include high-dose vitamins, frequent feeding, special diets and medications, or gene therapy, depending on the condition. Identifying a child early and starting treatments right away can prevent severe outcomes, including severe learning problems and death.

What Can Parents Do?

Parents will be contacted by their infant's physician or the hospital where their infant was born if there is a concern. It is important to remember that not every infant who screens positive (who has an "abnormal" result) will have the condition. However, it is essential that infants have any recommended follow-up testing as soon as possible. Then if a condition is identified, treatment can be started right away to help the infant be the healthiest they can be.

What does a positive (out-of-range) result mean?

A "positive" or "out-of-range" result means that the baby's screening exam did show signs that the baby may be at higher risk of having one or more of the conditions included on the newborn screening