

Investigation of Visual Reinforcement Audiometry, children 6-10 months

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At the audiology department, Skåne, Lund university hospital the intention is to start hearing intervention in line with joint committee of infant hearing. Despite this, not all children start intervention in the newborn period. A follow up is scheduled when they have reached the age for Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA).

Recommendations for VRA testing technique suggests that children are between 5- and 36-months, developmental age. According to the local guidelines in Lund children needs to be 8 months to perform on a VRA test. There is a risk that these guidelines increase an intervention delay.

As part of the work towards early intervention the follow up, for children with hearing loss in the newborn period, was scheduled to 5.5 -6.5 months of developmental age instead of 8 months. During a transition period the aim was to provide a better understanding about the children's reactions and the number of hearing thresholds observed across different ages. The children were tested two times, at the ages of 5.5-6.5 and 7.5-10 months.

So far more than twenty children have been tested. The audiologists have observed that many children show similar number of visible reactions at 5.5-7.5 and 7.5-10 months of age. Both head turns and other reactions were observed at both ages.

The local guidelines for VRA testing in Lund are now under revision and there are further plans for adjustments in the clinical practice for both children with uncertain diagnosis and children using hearing aids.