

DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL PEDIATRICS**HEARING IN CHILDREN -
ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT*****Abraham K Paul**

Abstract: Significant hearing impairment has devastating consequences for communication, education, psychological wellbeing of children and for employment prospects later during adulthood. Early identification of hearing loss followed by effective medical measures is of utmost importance especially in cases of congenital hearing loss. Age-appropriate evaluation and timely interventions are the key to a favourable outcome in hearing impaired children. Even in acquired hearing loss, early identification and prompt initiation of intervention result in better social emotional and developmental outcome.

Keywords: Assessment, Auditory brainstem response audiometry, Deafness, Hearing loss, Remediation.

Points to Remember

- *Congenital hearing loss should be identified before discharge of the neonate from the post-partum unit, by OAE screening and remediated before 6 months (preferably by 3 months) of age.*
- *It is mandatory to do ABR testing for all NICU graduates.*
- *For hearing loss beyond infancy, a thorough history and physical examination with age-appropriate diagnostic assessment should be the rule.*
- *Extensive parent counselling and rehabilitation process should follow hearing aid fitting and cochlear implantation.*

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