



Newborn Hearing Screening Facts

- Hearing disorders are more common than any other detectable disability in newborns and early infants.
- 1 to 3 infants out of every 1,000 are born with significant hearing loss (mono- or bilateral).
- The average cost for screening a baby's hearing is around 10 to 20 Euro.
- Newborns are currently screened for other illnesses that are detected in far fewer babies than hearing losses.
- The hearing screening tests are not invasive nor produce any harmful effects on babies in any way.
- Without newborn hearing screening, children would most likely go undetected until an age of 1 ½ to 2½ years.
- Late detection affects the development of auditory brain and language and may have a significant impact on academic development and on social and emotional growth.
- Delayed development as a result of late detection of hearing loss in a child can cost as much as Euro 15,000 to 20,000 annually.
- Although many countries already support newborn hearing screening, the participation of hospitals and coverage by insurance companies, or Public Health Systems will help increase the testing rate.
- Parents should ask doctors, hospitals and insurance companies for the screening test to be accessible.
- There are more than 2,000 hospitals in many countries of the EU that participate in newborn hearing and early intervention programs.