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Evaluation of Hong Kong infant behaviors with the 'The Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS)'

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Introduction

Survival infants might have increased risk of behavioral problems & intellectual & educational difficulties. Early assessment & identification of high risk infants would allow earlier intervention, which may promote growth & development.

Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS) is widely used & a powerful tool for assessing birth transition & early responses to the environment. It is a systematic observation and neurobehavioral interactive assessment producing a profile of infant behavior (birth to 2 months old). It is an interactive assessment focusing on the baby's strengths. It shows infant's reactions to stimulation, reflexes and social interaction.

NBAS has significantly contributed to understanding behavioral patterns of newborns in the US & other societies. However, no research on Chinese neonates.

Objectives

To evaluate the infant behaviors by using the NBAS and to compare the performance with other societies

Methodology

The babies were seen in Neonatal jaundice clinic (NNJ) of PWH and consent by parents were obtained. Demographic data was collected from parents. Occupational Therapist that was trained to use the NBAS would assess the infants with the scale. The result was analyzed and compare with previous study.

Result

Twenty subjects were collected and twelve babies were able to complete the assessment. The behavioral performance including response decrements, social-interactive, motor system, state organization, automatic stability and reflex was compared.

The study can help to understand the behavioral performance on the Hong Kong infants.