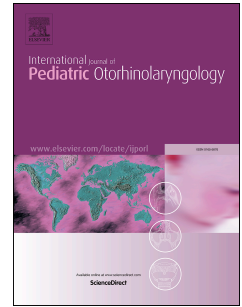


Accepted Manuscript

Systematic review of knowledge of, attitudes towards, and practices for newborn hearing screening among healthcare professionals

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PII: S0165-5876(17)30547-5

DOI: [10.1016/j.ijporl.2017.11.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijporl.2017.11.004)

Reference: PEDOT 8768

To appear in: *International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology*

Received Date: 23 June 2017

Revised Date: 5 November 2017

Accepted Date: 6 November 2017

Please cite this article as: R. Ravi, D.R. Gunjawate, K. Yerraguntla, B. Rajashekhar, Systematic review of knowledge of, attitudes towards, and practices for newborn hearing screening among healthcare professionals, *International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.ijporl.2017.11.004.

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Abstract

Introduction: The success of newborn hearing screening programs lies in the timely identification, diagnosis, and management of children with hearing loss accomplished via a multidisciplinary newborn hearing screening (NHS) team. The team is typically comprised of various healthcare professionals who act as decision makers as well as facilitators for different stages in the screening process. Team members' knowledge of, attitudes towards, and practices of early hearing detection and intervention programs are critical for program success and prevention of loss to follow up. In this context it becomes crucial to understand their knowledge of, attitudes towards, and practices for towards newborn hearing screening.

Methods: A systematic review was conducted of the following databases; PubMed/ Medline, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Scopus, Web of Science, Science Direct and the Cochrane Library. This search was carried out using various keywords such based on practitioners, newborn hearing screening, knowledge, attitudes, and practices in different combinations. The review was conducted based on Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta- analyses statement guidelines.

Results: A total of 271 hits were obtained of which twenty articles were found suitable for inclusion in the final review. Overall, similar results were found regarding team members' knowledge of NHS programs, regardless of country of origin. Similarly, attitudes toward NHS programs were positive. Team members' experiences with NHS programs varied from country-to-country and program-to-program and across healthcare professionals. Results consistently showed gaps in team members' knowledge suggesting the need for outreach and professional education programs on NHS programs.

Conclusion: NHS teams members from different countries, healthcare systems, and early hearing detection and intervention programs show gaps in critical knowledge warranting outreach and educational programming.

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