Early Identification of Infants at "High Risk" for Cerebral Palsy

NM Early CP Risk Detection and Intervention Task Force

What is the Concern?

❑ Cerebral Palsy is the most common physical disability

❑ 1 in 345 children in the US, Equates to approximately 76 infants born / yr. in NM

❑ Typically diagnosed at age 2 years or later for milder cases

❑ *50% of children with CP do not have identifiable risk factors and are under the care of general or pediatric practitioner*

Why is Delayed Identification a Problem?

❑ Little to no intervention during the critical period of brain plasticity

❑ Intervention services occur late or with less intensity

❑ Specific evidence-based practices are warranted

What is the Advantage of Early Identification?

❑ When a baby is identified early with "High Risk for CP" at 3 - 6 months, the infant can receive diagnostic-specific intervention to optimize neuroplasticity and reduce impairments

❑ Ongoing medical monitoring and surveillance can be provided

❑ While learning their child is at high risk is extremely difficult, research has shown that parents prefer to know early rather than late

How is Early Identification of Risk Possible?

❑ An infant's motor impairment can now be detected very early and accurately with <u>standardized tools</u>.

❑ The *Hammersmith Infant Neurological Examination* (HINE) is a relatively simple and quick assessment tool for infants 3 -24 months. It has high predictive ability (about 90%)

Reference: Novak, I., Morgan, C., Adde, L., et al. Early accurate diagnosis and early intervention in cerebral palsy: Advances in diagnosis and treatment. JAMA Pediatr. 2017; 171(9): 897-907.

Resources:

▪ Introducing the CP Channel http://yourcpf.org/videos-we-love/cp-channel/

▪ AACPDM is excited to announce the release of the most recent Care Pathway, "Care Pathway for Early Detection of Cerebral Palsy". Located here: http://www.aacpdm.org/publications/care-pathways/early-detection

▪ NMECPRDI task force. The link is located here: http://www.cdd.unm.edu/other-disability-programs/cerebral-palsy-taskforce/index.html

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