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Motor development evaluation of low-risk preterm infants through the first six months of life

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Statement of the Problem:

Pre-term and low birth weight children are at risk for developmental deficits, many pre-term children even who do not develop cerebral palsy not having reached normal motor development level regarding their chronological age. Researchers have reported that recently neonatal care Improved which have increased the survival of premature babies. Normal motor development starts at conception and continues throughout life according to a typical sequence, pattern, and timing. Evaluation and early detection of developmental deviation in preterm infants will improve the

concept of early intervention and result in better quality of life to the pre-term infants and their families.

Methodology & Theoretical **Orientation:** A longitudinal, quantitative, comparative study-one hundred infants: Pre-term and full-term infants were evaluated through the first 6 months of life. They were classified into two groups: (Group A) contained fifty preterms, (Group B) contained fifty full-term, infants were evaluated by Alberta Infant Motor Scale (AIMS).

Findings: The parents in this study were very cooperative. There was a significant difference in mean values AIMS of pre-term and full-term newborns and there was a significant difference in mean values AIMS of pre-term and full-term infants after six-month.

Conclusion & Significance: Lowrisk pre-term infant had nonoptimal motor development in comparison with full-term infants. Recommendations are made for further studies to assess motor development in pre-term using corrected age and motor development assessment in pre-term infants should be done periodically.

Biography

Reham AA Abouelkheir, Assistant Professor of pediatric physical therapy, Medical Rehabilitation College, Qassim University, she holds a bachelor's degree in physiotherapy, master's degree and a doctorate degree in pediatric rehabilitation, she has his expertise in the field of physical therapy and pediatric rehabilitation after about 18 years of experience in teaching and practice in hospital and education institutions in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. She is a pediatric rehabilitation consultant in Saudi Commission for Health Specialties; she is interested in the fields of Pediatric physical therapy and rehabilitation- Growth and Development-Neonatal Intensive Carewomen's health rehabilitation.

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