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Early hearing detection at immunization clinics in developing countries

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Early hearing detection has become a standard of neonatal care in most parts of the developed world. A growing number of developing countries are also currently exploring practical and culturally appropriate options for early hearing detection. Recent findings from ongoing infant hearing screening programs in Nigeria and South Africa suggest that hearing screening programs are feasible if integrated into early childhood immunization programs in developing countries, especially where a significant number of births occur outside regular hospitals. A major challenge for a multi-stage screening protocol is how to minimize default rates for follow-up till diagnosis. However, this could be systematically addressed through improved parental education and appropriate support at various stages of the program.

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Teacher and pupils at the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) in Salt/Jordan. The Institute is a rehabilation centre for hearing inpaired children and young people

Photo: CBM/Heine

COMMUNITY EAR AND HEARING HEALTH

Δim

• To promote ear and hearing health in developing countries

Objectives

- To facilitate continuing education for all levels of health worker, particularly in developing countries
- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, experience and information in order to encourage improvements in the delivery of ear and hearing health care and rehabilitation.

Guidelines for Authors

Please see Issue No. 1.

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