

## Early diagnosis of defective hearing

### – Otoacoustic Emissions

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Approximately every thousandth newborn in Germany is already born with a hearing defect. This number increases even more caused by possible illnesses during the newborn and baby stages as well as in toddlers.

In Germany, so far, hearing defects are detected at 2 to 3 years of age. Developmental disorders, mainly speaking disorders, are the consequence!

**The earlier a hearing defect is discovered, the better are the chances for success of a special therapy.**

#### What can we do for an early diagnosis?

- Observing how your child reacts to noises caused by the parents or doctors is very important and helpful, but sadly it is not authentic enough and is usually too late.
- The function of the middle ear and inner ear can be objectively examined during the first days of life by measuring the sound waves from the inner ear (otoacoustic emissions). In order to do this a small probe is put in the external auditory canal.

The examination is conducted with absolutely no strain on the child. For newborns and babies the examination is most successful after feeding, when they are quiet and awake or in just a light sleep. For bigger children the examination is also easiest, when they are in a quiet, awake state.



The results are available within minutes and you and the paediatrician or general practitioner will be informed of the results.

If the results are suspicious other examinations should follow. In these cases we will discuss this in detail with you.