

Neonatal neurological examination

Name Hospital number

Date of birth Date of examination

Gestation at birth Gestation now

Head circumference at birth: Head circumference now:
Centile Centile

Respiratory support: Ventilator / CPAP / oxygen / none

Current sedative / anti-convulsant / muscle relaxant medication (specify drug, dose and time last given):

Encephalopathic Yes / No If yes, describe

Cataracts / corneal clouding Yes / No

Dysmorphisms Yes / No If yes, describe

Cutaneous markers Yes / No If yes, describe

Skin dimples Yes / No

Excess fat folds Yes/ No

Contractures	Description (flexion/extension)	Left	degree	Right	degree
Shoulders					
Elbows					
Wrists					
Fingers					
Hips					
Knees					
Ankles					

Jaw jerk: present / absent / excessive

Mouth shape: normal / abnormal

Stridor: yes / no

Tongue: soft / hard / fasciculation / protruding

Dribbling, need for suction (how often), bubbly respiration

Gabella tap (for hyperekplexia)





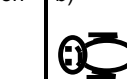




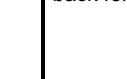
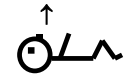
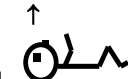

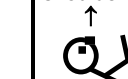
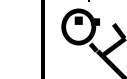
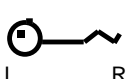
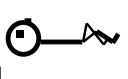
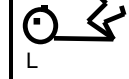
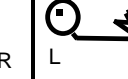
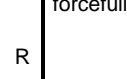
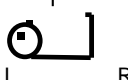
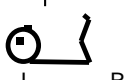
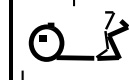

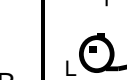


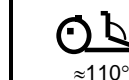
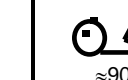









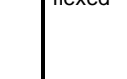




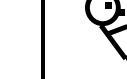





Organomegaly: liver / spleen / kidneys

Genitalia: normal male / female

Pupillary asymmetry: yes / no

Pupillary reflex to light: present / absent

Author: Dr James Boardman Neonatal Consultant, Implementation date 19 10 15

Tone and posture		Name	Date	GA at birth	GA now																																																			
	column 1	column 2	column 3	column 4	column 5																																																			
Posture	arms & legs extended 	legs slightly flexed 	leg well-flexed but not adducted 	leg well flexed & adducted near abdomen 	abnormal posture: a) opisthotonus b) 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>1</td><td>.5</td><td>2</td><td>.5</td><td>3</td><td>.5</td><td>4</td><td>.5</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>19</td><td>19</td><td>46</td><td>8</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>62</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>78</td><td>2</td><td>10</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>90</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	1	.5	2	.5	3	.5	4	.5	5		5	0	19	19	46	8	0	0	3	25-27 w	3	0	10	11	62	6	5	1	1	28-30 w	0	0	0	7	78	2	10	0	3	31-33 w	0	0	0	0	6	3	90	1	0	full term
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0	0	0	0	6	3	90	1	0	full term																																															
Arm recoil	arms do not flex 	arms flex slowly; not always; not completely 	arms flex slowly; more complete 	arms flex quickly and completely 	arms difficult to extend; snap back forcefully 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>19</td><td>5</td><td>55</td><td>3</td><td>8</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>46</td><td>5</td><td>26</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>49</td><td>12</td><td>29</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>22</td><td>3</td><td>67</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	2	3	19	5	55	3	8	5	0	25-27 w	1	3	10	8	46	5	26	0	1	28-30 w	0	0	5	2	49	12	29	0	3	31-33 w	0	0	5	2	22	3	67	1	0	full term										
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	0	0	5	2	22	3	67	1	0	full term																																														
Arm traction	arms remain straight; no resistance 	arms flex slightly or some resistance felt 	arms flex well till shoulder lifts, then straighten 	arms flex well approx 100° & maintained as shoulder lifts 	flexion of arms <100°; maintained when body lifts up 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>24</td><td>5</td><td>47</td><td>11</td><td>13</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>1</td><td>25</td><td>8</td><td>41</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>7</td><td>20</td><td>2</td><td>37</td><td>5</td><td>15</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>22</td><td>8</td><td>69</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	0	0	24	5	47	11	13	0	0	25-27 w	10	1	25	8	41	6	9	0	0	28-30 w	14	7	20	2	37	5	15	0	0	31-33 w	0	0	1	0	22	8	69	0	0	full term										
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	0	0	1	0	22	8	69	0	0	full term																																														
Leg recoil	No flexion 	incomplete flexion; not every time 	complete but slow flexion 	complete fast flexion 	legs difficult to extend; snap back forcefully 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>13</td><td>5</td><td>21</td><td>8</td><td>48</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>36</td><td>8</td><td>48</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>45</td><td>0</td><td>47</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>91</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	0	0	13	5	21	8	48	0	5	25-27 w	0	0	1	3	36	8	48	0	4	28-30 w	0	0	5	0	45	0	47	0	3	31-33 w	0	0	3	1	4	1	91	0	0	full term										
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	0	0	3	1	4	1	91	0	0	full term																																														
Leg traction	legs straight - no resistance 	legs flex slightly or some resistance felt 	legs flex well till bottom lifts up 	knee flexes - well; remains flexed when bottom up 	flexion stays when back+bottom up 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>45</td><td>5</td><td>32</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>11</td><td>5</td><td>44</td><td>8</td><td>27</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>17</td><td>12</td><td>42</td><td>0</td><td>24</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>72</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	0	3	5	3	45	5	32	3	4	25-27 w	3	0	11	5	44	8	27	1	1	28-30 w	0	5	17	12	42	0	24	0	0	31-33 w	0	0	0	1	12	12	72	0	3	full term										
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Popliteal angle	 180°	 ≈ 150°	 ≈ 110°	 ≈ 90°	 < 90°	<table border="1"> <tr><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>13</td><td>10</td><td>53</td><td>13</td><td>8</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>19</td><td>56</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>15</td><td>12</td><td>44</td><td>2</td><td>24</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>19</td><td>10</td><td>61</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	3	0	13	10	53	13	8	0	0	25-27 w	1	3	7	19	56	6	8	0	0	28-30 w	0	0	15	12	44	2	24	0	3	31-33 w	0	0	5	5	19	10	61	0	0	full term										
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	0	0	5	5	19	10	61	0	0	full term																																														
Head control 1	no attempt to raise head 	infant tries: effort better felt than seen 	raises head but drops forward or back 	raises head: remains vertical it may wobble 		<table border="1"> <tr><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>16</td><td>0</td><td>32</td><td>16</td><td>30</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>9</td><td>1</td><td>47</td><td>12</td><td>28</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>12</td><td>3</td><td>39</td><td>5</td><td>34</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>26</td><td>12</td><td>56</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	6	0	16	0	32	16	30	0	0	25-27 w	3	0	9	1	47	12	28	0	0	28-30 w	7	0	12	3	39	5	34	0	0	31-33 w	0	0	0	6	26	12	56	0	0	full term										
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	7	0	12	3	39	5	34	0	0	31-33 w																																														
	0	0	0	6	26	12	56	0	0	full term																																														
Head control 2	no attempt to raise head 	infant tries: effort better felt than seen 	raises head but drops forward or back 	raises head: remains vertical it may wobble 	head upright or extended; cannot be passively flexed 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>44</td><td>14</td><td>30</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>59</td><td>14</td><td>25</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>58</td><td>5</td><td>32</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>29</td><td>15</td><td>52</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	0	0	6	6	44	14	30	0	0	25-27 w	0	0	1	1	59	14	25	0	0	28-30 w	0	0	5	0	58	5	32	0	0	31-33 w	0	0	0	4	29	15	52	0	0	full term										
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	0	0	5	0	58	5	32	0	0	31-33 w																																														
	0	0	0	4	29	15	52	0	0	full term																																														
Head lag	head drops & stays back 	tries to lift head but it drops back 	able to lift head slightly 	lifts head in line with body 	head in front of body 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>19</td><td>11</td><td>49</td><td>5</td><td>16</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>14</td><td>5</td><td>52</td><td>9</td><td>20</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>71</td><td>3</td><td>20</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>9</td><td></td><td>44</td><td>12</td><td>31</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	0	0	19	11	49	5	16	0	0	25-27 w	0	0	14	5	52	9	20	0	0	28-30 w	2	0	2	2	71	3	20	0	0	31-33 w	0	0	9		44	12	31	0	0	full term										
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	2	0	2	2	71	3	20	0	0	31-33 w																																														
	0	0	9		44	12	31	0	0	full term																																														
Ventral susp.	back curved, head & limbs hang straight 	back curved, head ↓, limbs slightly flexed 	back slightly curved, limbs flexed 	back straight, head in line, limbs flexed 	back straight, head above body 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>8</td><td>14</td><td>39</td><td>11</td><td>23</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>25-27 w</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>14</td><td>8</td><td>52</td><td>5</td><td>16</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>28-30 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>17</td><td>0</td><td>63</td><td>5</td><td>12</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>31-33 w</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>47</td><td>16</td><td>28</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>full term</td></tr> </table>	0	0	8	14	39	11	23	5	0	25-27 w	1	0	14	8	52	5	16	0	4	28-30 w	0	0	17	0	63	5	12	0	3	31-33 w	0	0	4	5	47	16	28	0	0	full term										
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	0	0	17	0	63	5	12	0	3	31-33 w																																														
	0	0	4	5	47	16	28	0	0	full term																																														

Tone patterns

		column 1	column 2	column 3	column 4	1	.5	2	.5	3	.5	4	.5	5	
Flexor tone 1	On arm and leg traction	arm flexion < leg flexion	arm flexion = leg flexion	arm flexion > leg flexion but difference 1 column or <	arm flexion > leg flexion and difference > than 1 column	0	0	58	0	21	3	18	0	0	25-27 w
						0	0	47	3	37	0	9	1	3	
						0	0	39	5	46	5	0	2	2	31-33 w
						0	0	25	0	63	0	12	0	<1	
Flexor tone 2	In supine		arms and legs generally flexed	strong arm flexion with strong leg extension <i>intermittent</i>	strong arm flexion with strong leg extension <i>continuous</i>	0	0	0	0	92	3	5	0	0	25-27 w
						0	0	0	0	94	3	2	0	1	
						0	0	0	0	90	7	3	0	0	31-33 w
						0	0	0	0	99	0	<1	0	<1	
Leg ext. tone	Leg traction vs pop. angle	leg traction > than popliteal angle	leg traction = popliteal angle	leg traction < popliteal angle but difference 1 column <	leg traction < popliteal angle and difference > than 1 column	0	0	40	3	26	0	24	2	5	25-27 w
						0	0	27	0	33	3	31	0	6	
						0	0	15	0	42	12	19	7	5	31-33 w
						0	0	4	0	57	0	35	0	1	
Neck ext. tone	Neck in ext. vs neck in flexion	head extension < head flexion	head extension = head flexion	head extension > head flexion. but difference 1 column <	head extension > head flexion and difference > than 1 column	0	0	22	0	70	0	8	0	0	25-27 w
						0	0	13	0	82	0	5	0	0	
						0	0	20	0	72	0	8	0	0	31-33 w
						0	0	3	0	94	0	3	0	<1	
Inc. ext. tone	Vent susp vs head lag	ventral suspension < head lag	ventral suspension = head lag	ventr suspension > head lag but difference 1 column <	ventr suspension > head lag and difference > than 1 column	0	0	14	0	48	0	23	0	14	25-27 w
						0	0	21	0	55	0	21	0	3	
						0	0	30	0	48	0	20	0	2	31-33 w
						0	0	24	0	55	0	16	0	<1	

Reflexes

	column 1		column 2		column 3		column 4		column 5	
Tendon	Absent		felt, not seen		seen		Exaggerated		Clonus	
	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R

1	.5	2	.5	3	.5	4	.5	5	
0	0	3	0	67	13	13	4	0	25-27 w
0	0	7	0	55	9	23	4	2	28-30 w
0	0	31	0	25	0	25	6	13	31-33 w
<1	0	21	0	78	0	<1	0	<1	full term

Suck/Gag	no gag / no suck		weak irregular suck only		weak regular suck		strong suck: • irregular • regular		no suck but strong clenching	
	No stripping		Some stripping		Good stripping					

0	0	3	0	6	6	85	0	0	25-27 w
0	0	2	0	11	3	84	0	0	28-30 w
0	0	5	0	9	0	86	0	0	31-33 w
0	0	1	0	5	0	92	0	2	full term

Palmar grasp	no response		short, weak flexion of fingers		strong flexion of fingers		strong finger flexion, shoulder ↑		very strong grasp; infant can be lifted off couch	
	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R

0	0	11	0	57	3	26	3	0	25-27 w
0	0	4	2	61	9	20	2	2	28-30 w
0	0	5	0	67	6	22	0	0	31-33 w
<1	0	6	0	85	0	9	0	<1	full term

Plantar grasp	no response		partial plantar flexion of toes		toes curve around the examiner's finger					
	L	R	L	R	L	R				

0	0	8	3	89	0	0	0	0	25-27 w
0	1	7	1	91	0	0	0	0	28-30 w
0	0	5	2	93	0	0	0	0	31-33 w
<1	0	2	0	98	0	0	0	0	full term

Moro reflex	no response or opening of hands only		full abduction at shoulder and extension of the arms; no adduction		full abduction but only delayed or partial adduction		partial abduct. at shoulder and arm extension followed by smooth adduction		-no abduction or adduction; -only forward extension of arms from the shoulders -marked adduction only	

0	0	6	0	64	5	25	0	0	25-27 w
0	0	20	0	56	1	20	0	3	28-30 w
0	0	27	0	34	2	32	0	5	31-33 w
0	0	1	0	20	0	79	0	0	full term

Placing	No response		dorsiflexion of ankle only		full placing response with flexion of hip, knee & placing sole on surface					
	L	R	L	R	L	R				

7	4	11	7	71	0	0	0	0	25-27 w
0	2	8	11	79	0	0	0	0	28-30 w
0	0	11	9	77	0	0	0	0	31-33 w
1	0	18	0	81	0	0	0	0	full term

Spontaneous movements

	column 1	column 2	column 3	column 4	column 5
Movement (Quantity)	no movement	sporadic and short isolated movements	frequent isolated movements	frequent generalised movements	continuous exaggerated movements

1	.5	2	.5	3	.5	4	.5	5	
0	0	3	3	23	7	64	0	0	25-27 w
0	0	6	0	12	14	68	0	0	28-30 w
0	0	2	0	24	0	74	0	0	31-33 w
<1	0	3	0	5	0	92	0	<1	full term

Movement (Quality)	only stretches.	frequent stretches and abrupt movements; some smooth movements	fluent movements but monotonous	fluent alternating movements of arms + legs; good variability	cramped synchronised; mouthing jerky or other abn.mov.
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0	0	9	6	35	9	32	3	6	25-27 w
0	0	10	7	27	0	49	4	3	28-30 w
0	0	20	0	2	0	73	0	5	31-33 w
2	0	5	0	<1	0	93	0	<1	full term

Head raising prone	no response		infant rolls head over, chin not raised		infant rolls head over, raises chin		infant brings head and chin up		infant brings head up and keeps it up	

0	0	23	12	32	9	15	3	6	25-27 w
1	0	25	10	29	3	30	1	1	28-30 w
0	0	28	3	28	3	31	5	2	31-33 w
<1	0	10	0	50	0	40	0	<1	full term

Abnormal signs

	col 1	column 2	column 3	column 4	column 5										
Abn. hand or toe posture		hands open, toes straight most of the time	intermittent fisting or thumb adduction	continuous fisting or thumb adduction; index finger flexion, thumb opposition	continuous big toe extension or flexion of all toes	1	.5	2	.5	3	.5	4	.5	5	
						0	0	50	0	47	0	3	0	0	25-27 w
						0	0	63	0	35	1	1	0	0	28-30 w
						0	0	84	0	13	0	3	0	0	31-33 w
						0	0	85	0	12	0	3	0	<1	full term
Tremor		no tremor or tremor only when crying	tremor only after Moro or occasionally when awake	frequent tremors when awake	continuous tremors	0	0	61	0	17	8	11	0	3	25-27 w
						0	0	65	0	18	5	10	2	0	28-30 w
						0	0	65	0	20	2	8	0	5	31-33 w
						0	0	88	0	12	0	<1	0	<1	full term
Startle	no startle, even to sudden noise	no spontaneous startle but reacts to sudden noise	2-3 spontaneous startles	more than 3 spontaneous startles	continuous startles	0	0	64	3	21	3	9	0	0	25-27 w
						0	0	77	3	18	1	0	0	0	28-30 w
						0	0	95	0	3	0	2	0	0	31-33 w
						<1	0	94	0	6	0	<1	0	<1	full term

Behaviour

	col 1	column 2	column 3	column 4	column 5	1	.5	2	.5	3	.5	4	.5	5	
Eye movements	does not open eyes		full conjugated eye movements	<i>transient</i> -nystagmus -strabismus -roving eye mov. -sunset sign	<i>persistent</i> -nystagmus -strabismus -roving eye mov. -downward deviation	3	0	0	0	84	0	13	0	0	25-27 w
						3	0	0	0	88	0	9	0	0	28-30 w
						5	0	0	0	81	6	8	0	0	31-33 w
						7	0	0	0	92	0	1	0	<1	full term
Auditory orientation	no reaction	auditory startle; brightens and stills; no true orientation	shifting of eyes, head might turn towards source	prolonged head turn to stimulus; search with eyes; smooth	turns head and eyes towards noise every time; jerky abrupt	6	0	37	0	51	0	6	0	0	25-27 w
						2	0	18	19	48	4	9	0	0	28-30 w
						0	0	6	11	61	5	17	0	0	31-33 w
						<1	0	30	0	50	0	20	0	<1	full term
Visual orientation	does not follow or focus on stimuli	stills, focuses, follows briefly to the side but loses stimuli	follows horizontally and vertically; no head turn	follows horizontally and vertically; turns head	follows in a circle	12	0	9	0	12	3	31	3	30	25-27 w
						2	0	6	2	23	9	34	13	11	28-30 w
						0	0	14	0	18	9	46	4	9	31-33 w
						<1	0	7	0	41	0	51	0	1	full term
Alertness	will not respond to stimuli	when awake, looks only briefly	when awake, looks at stimuli but loses them	keeps interest in stimuli	does not tire (hyper-reactive)	12	0	18	3	46	3	18	0	0	25-27 w
						0	0	22	4	53	0	21	0	0	28-30 w
						0	0	0	6	50	5	39	0	0	31-33 w
						1	0	2	0	38	0	49	0	<1	full term
Irritability	quiet all the time, not irritable to any stimuli	awakes, cries sometimes when handled	cries often when handled	cries always when handled	cries even when not handled	8	0	56	0	31	0	3	0	2	25-27 w
						24	0	41	1	29	1	4	0	0	28-30 w
						33	0	55	0	12	0	0	0	0	31-33 w
						<1	0	93	0	5	0	2	0	<1	full term
Consolability	asleep; awake, no crying; consoling not needed	awake; cries briefly; consoling not needed	awake; cries; becomes quiet when talked to	awake; cries; needs picking up to console	awake; cries cannot be consoled	8	0	31	0	36	0	25	0	0	25-27 w
						24	0	16	0	33	5	16	4	2	28-30 w
						32	0	10	0	30	5	23	0	0	31-33 w
						1	0	41	0	45	0	12	0	<1	full term
Cry	no cry at all	whimpering cry only	cries to stimuli but normal pitch		High pitched cry; often continuous	11	0	18	0	71	0	0	0	0	25-27 w
						24	0	7	4	65	0	0	0	0	28-30 w
						32	0	5	3	60	0	0	0	0	31-33 w
						<1	0	7	0	92	0	0	0	1	full term

References

Mercuri et al. Neurologic examination of preterm infants at term age: comparison with term infants. *J Pediatr* 2003;142:647-55

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