

Introduction

The purpose of this supplement is to facilitate researchers' and clinicians' use of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Network Neurobehavioral Scale (NNNS). The NNNS was developed for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to assess the neurobehavior of drug-exposed and high-risk infants. In the early 1990s, the NIH began the multisite (Detroit, Michigan; Memphis, Tennessee; Miami, Florida; and Providence, Rhode Island) Maternal Lifestyle Study (MLS), a prospective longitudinal study of in utero cocaine exposure, under the auspices of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network. The NNNS was developed for use in the MLS under a separate "Neurobehavioral Contract" from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to provide measures for the MLS that were sensitive to drug effects. Part of the mission of the contract was also the dissemination of the measures, a mission fulfilled, in part, by this supplement. The material provided here will enable readers to determine their interest in using the exam. Procedures for learning the exam are described in this issue, and a training manual and assessment kit will be published by Brookes Publishing.

This issue includes a preface by T. Berry Brazelton, MD, followed by a history and description of the NNNS and the NNNS procedures, which shows how to perform and score the exam. This is followed by two articles providing NNNS data from the MLS and a low-risk term sample. We then provide an article on clinical uses of the NNNS. Appendices are also

included with information on how to compute summary scores.

The NNNS represents the combined knowledge of many scientist-clinicians as well as examiners with extensive experience in the neurobehavioral assessment of normal and at-risk infants.

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