Neonatal EEG Recording Guideline

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1. PURPOSE
These guidelines have been prepared to offer guidance towards best practice for recording an EEG on a neonate in clinical practice within Australia.

2. INTRODUCTION
The following guidelines should be considered as minimum standards to record an EEG on a neonate in clinical practice. These neonatal EEGs include EEG monitoring on babies with a conceptional age (CA)* of up to 50 weeks (1). They have been prepared by a sub committee governed by ANTA Inc. and have been presented to stakeholders within the field of Clinical Neurophysiology in Australia (see Appendix 1). A review of international guidelines was made to ensure that this ANTA Inc. Guideline is consistent with worldwide standards.

NB: *Conceptional Age (CA): The time from the mother’s first day of the last menstruation to the time of recording (1).

3. LIMITS OF THE GUIDELINE
This guideline relates to neonatal EEG recording in clinical practice.

4. ELECTRODES
(i) Electrode Placement
Electrodes should be placed in accordance with ‘The 10-20 Electrode System of the International Federation’ (2) including a ground and reference electrode where applicable.
Additional physiological recording electrodes should also be applied including electrocardiogram (ECG), electro-oculogram (EOG), submental electromyogram (EMG), movement and respiration (1, 3). (See section 6(i) for further detail).

(ii) Electrode Choice
Refer to the ANTA Inc. Routine EEG Recording Guideline (4).

(iii) Electrode Impedance
Refer to the ANTA Inc. Routine EEG Recording Guideline (4).

5. PRE-TEST CHECKS
(i) Calibration
(ii) Biological Calibration
(iii) All electrode Check

Refer to the ANTA Inc. Routine EEG Recording Guideline (4).
6. RECORDING

(i) Electrode Placement
   a) EEG electrode positions should be measured in accordance with the International 10/20 System where possible\(^2,3,5,6,8\). It may be necessary to apply a reduced number of electrodes depending on the head size of the baby although a full complement of electrodes can be applied\(^1,3,5,6\). This is to ensure an adequate inter electrode distance is achieved. The minimum electrodes which should be applied are Fp2, C4, T4, O2, Fp1, C3, T3, O1, Fz, Cz, Pz, A2 and A1 (mastoid electrodes)\(^5,6\). A modified version of the 10/20 Electrode Placement system for neonatal recording may include repositioning prefrontal electrodes a further 10% posteriorly\(^5\). (See Appendix 2 below).

   b) Polygraphic Electrodes
      Neonatal EEG recording should routinely include but not be limited to Electrocardiogram (ECG), Electro-oculogram (EOG), sub-mental Electromyogram (EMG) and Respiratory (Resp) monitors\(^1,3,5\).

      Refer Appendix 3 below for further details.

(ii) Notch Filter
     A 50Hz notch filter should only be used after all other methods of eliminating mains interference, such as reduction of electrode impedances and/or appropriate earthing and positioning of mains equipment, have been fully explored\(^7\). If a notch filter is used this should be documented within the factual report. A period of recording without the 50Hz notch filter should be recorded if the 50Hz notch filter is used.

(iii) Patient Information
     Additional patient and clinical information is required for recording EEG in neonates\(^3,5\) which shall include but not be limited to:
     - Conception and gestational age
     - Medical history (e.g. asphyxia, intra ventricular haemorrhage)
     - History of abnormal movements or events – detailed features of events, circumstances or precipitants
     - Conscious state
     - Apgar score
     - Mechanical ventilation
     - Cooling protocol if cooled
     - Head circumference
     - Time of last feeding.

     Refer to ANTA Inc. EEG Guidelines for minimum patient information - section 6(i).
(iv) Annotations
Continuous observation and annotation is important\(^{(1, 3, 5)}\) and should include but is not limited to:

- Patient state (awake/indeterminate sleep/active sleep/quiet sleep)
- Behaviour/movements (gross and subtle)
- Physiologic parameters (changes in oxygen saturation, heart rate etc)
- Administration of medication (time and type)
- Passive eye opening/closure
- Reactivity to stimuli from the environment
- Features of clinical events
- Position of the child (e.g. lying on the right side against mother)
- External influences on the recording (artefacts from respirator, BP monitor, IV infusions).

(v) Montages

a) When a full set of electrodes have been applied, montages for neonatal EEG recordings should not differ to the routine EEG practice. Refer to the ANTA Inc. Routine EEG Recording Guideline\(^{(4)}\).

b) When a modified 10/20 Electrode Placement System is used for neonatal recording a modified wide placement montage is used.

Example of modified neonatal EEG recording montage where F2 and F1 are placed 10% posteriorly to Fp2 and Fp1. This suggested montage is adapted from the recommended montage from Mizrahi\(^{(5)}\).

\[
\begin{align*}
F2 – C4 & \quad A2 – T4 \\
C4 – O2 & \quad T4 – C4 \\
F1 – C3 & \quad C4 – Cz \\
C3 – O1 & \quad Cz – C3 \\
& \quad C3 – T3 \\
F2 – T4 & \quad T3 – A1 \\
T4 – O2 & \\
F1 – T3 & \quad \text{EEG} \\
T3 – O2 & \quad \text{Respiration} \\
& \quad \text{Submental EMG} \\
Fz – Cz & \quad \text{EOG} \\
Cz – Pz & \\
\end{align*}
\]

(vi) Length of recording the neonatal recording should include both awake and sleep cycles\(^{(6)}\). A minimum recording of 60 minutes should be performed\(^{(3, 6, 8)}\).

(vii) Stimulation
Tactile, auditory and flash stimuli should be applied toward the end of the recording and reactivity noted in the annotations\(^{(1, 3, 8)}\).

(ix) Settings
Refer to the ANTA Inc. Routine EEG Recording Guideline\(^{(4)}\).
A slower display speed of 15mm/second or 20 seconds per page\(^{(5, 6)}\) may be useful to identify specific neonatal complexes.
7. POST-RECORDING CHECKS
   (i) Biological Calibration
   (ii) All electrode Check
   (iii) Calibration
   Refer to the ANTA Inc. Routine EEG Recording Guideline (4).

8. FACTUAL REPORT
   Refer to the ANTA Inc. Routine EEG Recording Guideline (4).
9. REFERENCES


Additional Readings


Appendix 1 – Stakeholders

Stakeholders
- ANTA Inc. Members
- Document Development Committee
- Document Development Committee Advisory Group
- Other interested parties

Original Document development subcommittee
Mary Lynch, Joanne Wex, Holly Campbell, Anna Exley, Santhi Chigurupati, Malcolm Corkhill, Kate Martin, Emma Fetherston, Amy Lofts, Vicky Grant.

Advisory Committee
The document development committee identified a group of key stakeholders to view the draft documents for feedback. The advisory group was made up of technologists, scientists and neurologists working in the neurophysiology industry around Australia. The comments from this group were considered, compared against the reference material and included where appropriate.

Members Feedback
On completion of the final draft the document was put out to all members of ANTA Inc. for feedback. The comments from members were considered, compared against the reference material and included where appropriate.

Guideline Acceptance
This Guideline was accepted by members in July 2014.

Amendments
2016 May Disclaimer and Copyright statements added.
Appendix 2

Modified 10/20 Electrode placement system for neonatal EEG recording\(^5\)

Figure 1. Modified neonatal EEG electrode placement
Appendix 3

Suggested polygraphic electrode placements for neonatal recording:

ECG: Electrodes can be placed on the left side of the chest (referential recording) or both sides of the chest (bipolar recording). Lead 1 ECG. (Figure 2)

![Diagram of ECG electrode placement](image)

Figure 2. ECG electrode placement
EOG: Right upper outer canthus – left lower out canthus \(^{1,5}\). (Figure 3)

![Figure 3. EOG electrode placement - combined lateral and vertical eye movement](image)

or refer outer canthus to mastoid either ipsilaterally or contralaterally \(^{5}\). (Figure 4)

![Figure 4. EOG electrode placement - lateral eye movement](image)

or right outer canthus to mid nasion \(^{3}\). (Figure 5)

![Figure 5. EOG electrode placement - unilateral combined lateral and vertical eye movement](image)
Submental EMG: Two electrodes 2cm apart placed under the midline of the chin (6). (Figure 6)

Respiratory: Respiratory transducer recording thoracic abdominal movements (1) two centimetres above umbilicus (6) or two electrodes placed 2cm apart at the base of the ribcage over the diaphragm. (Figure 7)

Figure 6. Submental EMG electrode placement

Figure 7. Resp electrode placement
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