

DOWN'S SYNDROME HEARING PROBLEMS

Key points

(Based on DSMIG guidelines for basic essential medical surveillance)

Hearing impairment can be successfully managed in the Down's population but if undiagnosed is a significant cause of preventable handicap.

Neonatal screen

6-10 months – Review for all regardless of neonatal findings:

Auditory thresholds/Impedance tests/Otoscopy

Aim – By 10 months it will have been established whether or not there is permanent hearing loss with or without OME **and** a management plan will have been agreed **and** intervention instigated where necessary

15-18 months - Review for all.

Auditory thresholds/Impedance tests/Otoscopy

2-5 years - Annual review as above.

Thereafter *2 yearly for life*, or more often if there are problems.