

Pulse Oximetry Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Defects: A European Consensus Statement

Summary*

Critical congenital heart defects (CCHD) are life-threatening and timely detection is essential for optimal outcome. Experts in CCHD screening and representatives from major European paediatric and neonatal societies convened to develop suitable and implementable evidencebased recommendations on pulse oximetry screening (POS) for CCHD across Europe. POS has been shown to be a simple, quick and painless tool for identifying babies with CCHD which is inexpensive, acceptable and has a high specificity and moderate sensitivity. POS should be performed in two extremities (right hand and either foot) using new generation, motion tolerant equipment after 6 hours of life or before discharge (preferably before 24 hours of life). Several screening protocols are available and current data does not differentiate a 'best' protocol; thus, countries may decide upon which protocol best fits their population. Adopting POS at a national level across Europe will help improve management of these life-threatening conditions.

*The full consensus statement can be found at:

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(17\)30066-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(17)30066-4/fulltext)