

# The depressed infant: Test and imaging

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## **SUMMARY**

Among the common neurological scenarios encountered in the Neonatal Intensive Care unit is managing the depressed infant. Many different aetiologies result in alteration in neonatal conscious state, which often at times can be subtle. After initial management steps that aim to stabilise the newborn, the clinician would then pursue various assessments that include encephalopathy scores, electrophysiologic studies and neuroimaging. These assessments aid in differentiating various aetiologies of encephalopathy, initiating treatment modalities and outcome prognostication. Encephalopathy scores (Thompson & Sarnat scores) are used to assess and monitor the neurological state of an infant. It is also commonly used as a tool to qualify for therapeutic hypothermia. Neurodiagnostic test like electroencephalogram (EEG) diagnose seizures, especially subclinical types and may aid in prognostication. Magnetic Resonance Imaging would be important to delineate the extent of brain injury, which then helps in outcome prediction and future management planning.