

Neurodevelopmental Outcome at Age 7 to 10 Years After Selective Head Cooling with Mild Systemic Hypothermia After Neonatal Encephalopathy.

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Principal Investigator: David Durand, MD

Synopsis:

The specific aim of this study is to assess long-term functional outcome of survivors from neonatal encephalopathy treated with either head cooling or with conventional care. Children's parents, who have given consent to the site investigators, will be interviewed by phone by trained staff, masked to the study, using the WeeFIM 14 to ascertain the childrens' functional performance on a set of skills basic to daily life. This instrument is able to assess a very wide range of abilities, from independently functioning to needing total assistance. Conducting the interviews by phone with a trained interviewer will minimize expenses of travel by the family as well as minimizing measurement error due to inter-examiner variability of administration and scoring. The ratings will be used in two ways:

1. To examine the relationship between the outcome at 18 months age and functional outcome at school age.
2. To triage the children into those who clearly could not be tested on standardized exams of cognitive functioning and those who potentially could, even if at a low level of cognitive ability.