

Infant reflex essay



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* Moro reflex – The Moro reflex is often called a startle reflex because it usually occurs when a baby is startled by a loud sound or movement. In response to the sound, the baby throws back his/her head, extends out the arms and legs, cries, then pulls the arms and legs back in. A baby's own cry can startle him/her and begin this reflex. This reflex lasts about five to six months. Grasp reflex – Stroking the palm of a baby's hand causes the baby to close his/her fingers in a grasp. The grasp reflex lasts only a couple of months and is stronger in premature babies.

* Babinski reflex – When the sole of the foot is firmly stroked, the big toe bends back toward the top of the foot and the other toes fan out. This is a normal reflex up to about 2 years of age. Parachute Reflex-Protective abduction of arms, extension of elbows and wrists and spreading of fingers, a normal defence reflex, elicited when an infant is held in ventral suspension and is tilted abruptly forward toward the floor, seen in the 8th–12th month of age, a response that is asymmetrical in infants with hemiparesis and is an early sign of cerebral palsy. Asymmetrical reflex is a primitive reflex found in newborn humans, but normally vanishes around six months of age.

It is also known as the “ fencing reflex” because of the characteristic position of the infant's arms and head, which resembles that of a classically trained fencer. When the face is turned to one side, the arm and leg on the side to which the face is turned extend and the arm and leg on the opposite side flex.

Symmetrical tonic neck reflex- Procedure – passively flex the head forward and then extend it backwards; Response observed : forward head flexion will produce flexion of the upper extremities and extension of the lower extremities; extension of the head will produce extension of the upper extremities and flexion of the lower extremities cremasteric reflex- is elicited by slightly stroking the superior and medial part of the thigh. The normal response is an immediate contraction of the cremaster muscle that pulls up the testis on the side of the stroked.