



NEONATAL SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR CRITICAL CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE IN THE COMMUNITY OF MADRID

Critical congenital heart disease are serious heart defects present from birth, requiring early intervention. Detecting them early can save lives and prevent serious complications.

WHY IS IT DONE?

The neonatal Screening Program for Critical Congenital Heart Disease is an essential public health programme to ensure the health and well-being of newborns in the Community of Madrid.

Early detection of critical congenital heart disease allows for timely intervention, significantly improving the chances of survival and quality of life of affected babies.

This screening may also detect other conditions that benefit from early medical attention.

WHAT TEST IS USED?

The test is called pulse oximetry test. It is a simple and painless test, which measures oxygen saturation in the baby's blood, placing a sensor on the right hand and foot of the newborn.

WHEN AND WHERE IS IT DONE?

It is performed in maternity hospitals, both public and private, in the Community of Madrid. The test is done between 6 and 24 hours of the newborn's life. This allows problems early detection before the baby is discharged from the hospital. The newborn must be calm (not asleep) and in an environment with an appropriate temperature.

WHAT CAN THE RESULTS BE?

- Negative (Normal): No further evaluation is required.
- Positive (Abnormal): Immediate clinical evaluation by a pediatrician is required. If the results indicate any alteration, it does not mean that the newborn has the disease, but rather that further tests are needed to confirm the diagnosis and determine the necessary treatment.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

If critical congenital heart disease is confirmed, the baby will be transferred to a Designated Reference Clinical Unit (CSUR) to receive appropriate treatment. This may include surgery or catheterization, other medical interventions, and follow-up care.

The designated CSURs for complex pediatric heart conditions in the Community of Madrid are the Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, the Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón and the Hospital Universitario La Paz.