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Exploring the Impact of Neonatal Screening on Child Health Outcomes

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Abstract

Neonatal screening, an essential public health measure, aims to identify infants at risk for certain genetic, metabolic, and endocrine disorders that may otherwise remain undiagnosed in early life. This study explores the impact of neonatal screening on child health outcomes by reviewing its role in the early detection and management of conditions such as phenylketonuria, congenital hypothyroidism, and cystic fbrosis. Early identifcation through screening allows for prompt intervention, often leading to better long-term health and developmental outcomes. This paper examines the evidence linking neonatal screening with reduced morbidity, mortality, and disability, while also addressing the challenges of expanding screening programs, including cost, ethical considerations, and access disparities. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of follow-up care, parental education, and the role of healthcare systems in ensuring optimal results from neonatal screening. The fndings suggest that neonatal screening is a cornerstone of preventative pediatric healthcare, with signifcant potential to enhance child health outcomes and reduce the burden of preventable diseases.

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