

## **Postnatal Risk Factors of Congenital Hearing Impairment: Otitis Media, Head Injuries and Convulsions**

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**ABSTRACT** Hearing impairment is the most prevalent sensory disability and is caused by a variety of genetic and environmental factors. Many studies have proposed otitis media, head injury, convulsions, respiratory problems and infections to the infants as the important antecedents of neonatal deafness or hearing impairment. A prospective etiological study of adverse postnatal conditions leading to bilateral sensorineural neonatal hearing impairment was conducted. In this study 1076 children below 14 years of age with congenital hearing loss were investigated. The results showed adverse postnatal history in 20.26% (218) of the cases out of 1076. High risk factors included otitis media, head injury and convulsions and respiratory distress. Majority (126/11.71%) of the cases showed otitis media followed by head injury in 4.83% (52) of the cases, convulsions in 2.78% (30) of the cases and respiratory problems in 0.92% (10) of the cases. It can be concluded that careful monitoring of the child during the first few years and vaccination against all the infections is necessary.