

Infant Reflexes & Rhythmical Stereotypies

Chapter 7

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PED 201

Reflexes

Again...

- Subcortical...
- Some reflexes reflect later voluntary movements = postural reflexes.
- Primitive reflexes = nourishment & seeking protection.

Encoding Stage

- Fourth month to fourth month...
- Information-gathering.
- Storage of this information in the cortex.

Decoding Stage



- The infant processes information more efficiently.

Reflexes & Voluntary Movement

- Several primitive reflexes in early infancy resemble later voluntary movement.
- Yet there is a considerable lag between the inhibition of a postural reflex and the onset of voluntary movement.

Reflexes & Voluntary Movement

- Early reflexive activity information is stored for later use.
- Some controversy exists...

Neuromaturational Theory

- As the cortex develops it...
- Myelination allows for...
- Dynamical systems theory says...

- The role of reflexes in assessing nervous system development ...
- It is common for doctors to elicit reflexes in infants to...

Possible Red Flags

- Preseveration of a reflex beyond the age it should have been inhibited.



Possible Red Flags

- Complete absence of a reflex.



Possible Red Flags

- Unequal bilateral reflex.



Possible Red Flags

- Responses that are too strong or too weak.



Rhythmical Stereotypies

- Performed over & over for their own sake.
- Tend to increase before voluntary control of the particular system.

Rhythmical Stereotypies

- Repetitive rhythmical movements (normal in infants, 4 weeks – 1 yr.)
- Neuromaturation vs. Self-organization

Rhythmical Stereotypies

- Legs & feet (kicking, “bicycling”)
- Torso (prone back arch, rocking from creeping position, sitting rock)
- Arms, hands, fingers (waving, object banging)
- Head & face (head shaking, tongue sticking, sucking)
