

Perfusion index in newborn infants: a noninvasive tool for neonatal monitoring.

Acta Paediatr. 2014 May;103(5):468-73. doi: 10.1111/apa.12574. Epub 2014 Feb 23.

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AIM: To review the utility of perfusion index (PI) in the evaluation of neonatal clinical conditions. Twenty-five manuscripts were reviewed. PI provides information about haemodynamic stability, illness severity, early neonatal respiratory outcome, low superior vena cava flow and subclinical chorioamnionitis.

CONCLUSION: PI is a valuable tool to assess the newborn's health condition and could become a standardised measure in clinical evaluation. Different study designs are necessary to provide further validation to this method.