Screening for hemoglobinopathies in newborns: reaffirmation update for the U.S.
Preventive Services Task Force

Lin K, Barton MB

Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To assist the USPSTF in updating its 1996 recommendation on screening for hemoglobinopathies in newborns, staff at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) performed a literature search and consulted with subject area experts. The goal of this targeted review was to find new, high-quality evidence regarding the benefits and potential harms of screening for hemoglobinopathies in newborns.

Authors' conclusions
In summary, we found no substantial new evidence since 1996 on the benefits or harms of screening for hemoglobinopathies in newborns. Future research is needed to identify counseling practices that minimize negative psychosocial effects of communicating newborn carrier status information and to develop alternative screening methods that are capable of identifying only clinically significant hemoglobinopathies.

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Address for correspondence
Center for Outcomes and Evidence Technology Assessment Program, 540 Gaither Road, Rockville, MD 20850, USA.
Tel: +1 301 427 1610; Fax: +1 301 427 1639; Email: martin.erlichman@ahrq.hhs.gov

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