

Apgar Score

Overview: The Apgar scoring system is used to assess newborn infants for depression of cardiopulmonary and neurological function. Scoring is done at 1 and 5 minutes after birth.

Parameter	Finding	Points
color	blue pale	0
	body pink extremities blue	1
	all pink	2
heart rate	absent	0
	< 100	1
	> 100 (will use ≥ 100)	2
respiration	absent	0
	irregular slow	1
	good crying	2
reflex response to nose catheter	none	0
	grimace	1
	sneeze cough	2
muscle tone	limp	0
	some flexion of extremities	1
	active	2

Apgar score = SUM(points for all 5 parameters)

Interpretation:

- minimum score: 0
- maximum score: 10
- The lower the score the more profoundly affected the infant is with scores under 5 considered serious.
- A low initial scores with no improvement in the 5 minute score is associated with neonatal problems including death.

References:

Apgar V. A proposal for a new method of evaluation of the newborn infant. *Anesth Analg.* 1953; 32: 260.

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