

Thesis Title	Comparison of Plantar Grasp Reflex Responses Elicited by Two Testing Methods and Their Relationships with Standing Developmental Levels in Normal Infants
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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to compare the level of the Plantar Grasp Reflex (PGR) response in infants elicited by the Standard Method (STD) and the Supported Standing Method (SUP) and to study any relationship existing between the level of PGR responses elicited by the two methods with standing developmental levels (STAND). The PGR was scored according to the Movement Assessment of Infants (MAI) scoring system. The STAND was scored as follows; score 1: stands alone well; score 2: stands momentarily; score 3: stands holding on; score 4: bears some weight on legs; and score 5: astasia.

144 infants, who ranged in age from 6 to 12 months were examined for the PGR using both methods and STAND. The Wilcoxon Matched-pairs Signed-ranks Test revealed that there were no significant differences between

the PGR responses when tested by the two testing methods in all age ranges ($p > 0.05$). The results of the Spearman rank order correlations revealed that there were significant positive correlations between the PGR responses elicited by the two testing methods at the marked to very high levels depending on the age ($r_s = 0.57$ to 1.000 ; $p = 0.000$).

The Spearman rank order correlations also revealed that there were significant positive correlations between STD and STAND and between SUP and STAND at a marked level ($r_s = 0.6848$; 0.6166 , respectively ; $p = 0.000$).

The results of this study suggest that in the clinic we can choose one of the two testing methods for PGR to assess infants between 6 and 12 months of age, according to the needs of the infant. For example, if an infant is not comfortable in supine it is not necessary to force him into the position as he can be tested in standing instead. The results indicated the prognostic value of the PGR in normal infants by using its response to estimate the level of standing development.

In addition, there is further investigation into the possible factors influencing the PGR responses and STAND. These results may lead to some suggestions for parents who have babies at risk for developmental delay to follow to encourage their babies' standing development and the integration of the PGR.