

research on primitive reflexes

Primitive reflexes are widely discussed in medical literature, and there are several studies linking active reflexes to various diagnoses and behavioral symptoms. Read on to learn about the science that inspires our work.

Reflex
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A longitudinal study published in *Developmental Study and Child Neurology* in 1994 conducted with low-birthweight,

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preterm infants suggests that there is a strong relationship between primitive reflex patterns, automatic postural reactions, and motor development in the first year of life. It found that the prevalence of primitive reflex patterns, such as ATNR, predicted the prevalence of mature postural reflexes, such as the Landau and the righting reflexes. There is also a correlation between the integration of the TLR and the presence of the ATNR at one year of age as well as later achievement of motor milestones.

Citation:

Mandich, M., Simons, C. J., Ritchie, S., Schmidt, D., & Mullen, M. (2008). Motor Development, Infantile Reactions And Postural Responses Of Preterm, At-Risk Infants. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*, 36(5), 397-405. doi:10.1111/j.1469-8749.1994.tb11865.x

ATNR,
Plantar,
and Moro
Reflexes
may be
active in
infants at
risk for
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This 2015 literature review sought to find the connection between active primitive reflexes in children and their risk for developing Cerebral Palsy or experiencing developmental delays. It found that in early infancy, an active Moro and Plantar Grasp reflex correlated with the diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy, and after early infancy an active Moro and ATNR predicted

ental
delays

developmental delays.

Citation:

Hamer, E. G., & Hadders-Algra, M. (2016).
Prognostic significance of neurological signs
in high-risk infants - a systematic
review. *Developmental Medicine & Child
Neurology*,58, 53-60. doi:10.1111/dmcn.13051

The
correlation
between
active
primitive
reflexes
and ADHD

This 2013 study tested to what extent an
active ATNR and STNR is related to ADHD
symptoms in girls aged 8-11. Their methods
found that "persisting primitive reflexes are
closely linked to ADHD symptoms." View the
full report [here](#).

Citation:

Bob, P., Konicarova, J., & Raboch, J. (2013).
Persisting primitive reflexes in medication-
naïve girls with attention-deficit and
hyperactivity disorder. *Neuropsychiatric
Disease and Treatment*,1457.

doi:10.2147/ndt.s49343

The
presence
of active
primitive
reflexes in
infants
and their
correlation
with

For most primitive reflexes, retention of the
reflex beyond the period when it should no
longer be elicited suggests a pathologic
process within the central nervous system.
However, for certain primitive reflexes, such

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as the plantar grasp reflex, a negative response within the first months of life is suggestive of a neurological abnormality. From the results of one prospective and one retrospective study, it is clearly indicated that the absence of the plantar grasp reflex from 3 months of age and on correlates with the development of spastic cerebral palsy. The specific combination of presence or absence of specific primitive reflexes, postural reactions, or both may accurately predict a specific type of cerebral palsy or neuro-developmental abnormality.

Citation:

Zafeiriou, D. I. (2000). Plantar grasp reflex in high-risk infants during the first year of life. *Pediatric Neurology*, 22(1), 75-76.
doi:10.1016/s0887-8994(99)00110-1

Email:

retrainthebrain@att.net

Retrain the Brain Alpharetta, GA, 30022, United States
retrainthebrain@att.net



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