Measuring Muscle Tone in Infants: Current Concepts and Challenges

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Abstract. Muscle tone is affected by a constellation of diseases affecting nervous and muscular Systems. Congenital Muscular Dystrophies (CMDs) are the second most common myopathic cause of floppy infant syndrome that may lead infants from troubles in feeding to exhibit shallow breathing. Despite recent advancements, there are currently no objective criteria to evaluate muscle tone in infants. This paper summarizes the existing tools and novel instruments for measuring muscle tone in infants and children while critically evaluating their advantages and disadvantages.

Keywords: Congenital Muscular Dystrophy, Floppy Infants, Muscle Tone.