

TABLE 14-1. Selected Primitive Reflexes

Moro Reflex

Allowing the infant's head to drop back suddenly results in abduction and upward movement of the arms followed by adduction and flexion. This reflex disappears by 4 months.

Rooting Reflex

Touching the corner of the infant's mouth results in lowering of the lower lip on the same side and movement of the tongue toward the stimulus. - Disappears !

Sucking Reflex

Placing an object in an infant's mouth causes vigorous sucking. 1 year

Grasp Reflex

Placing a finger in an infant's palm causes the infant to grasp it; the infant reinforces the grip as the finger is drawn upward. A similar response is seen in the foot grasp. Both these reflexes disappear by 2-3 months.

Placing Reflex

Stroking the anterior aspect of the tibia against the edge of a table results in the lifting of the infant's leg to step onto the table.

Stepping Reflex

Holding the infant upright and slightly leaning forward produces alternating flexion and extension movements of the legs that simulate walking. This reflex disappears by 5-6 weeks.

Asymmetrical Tonic Neck Reflex

With the infant lying supine, turning the head to one side results in extension of the extremities on that side and flexion of the opposite extremities ("fencer position"). This reflex disappears by 3-4 months.