

Children's Health Medical Center Dallas

## Children's Health Scholarly Collection

---

2023

Annual Nursing Fair

---

2023

### Incorporating the Adaptive Behavior Assessment System Third Edition(ABAS-3) to Follow Cognitive and Developmental Milestones of Patients after ECLS

Laura Hatton  
*Childrens Health*

Erin Tresselt  
*Childrens Health*

Ricardo Merano  
*Childrens Health*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycollection.childrens.com/nursing-anf2023>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Hatton, Laura; Tresselt, Erin; and Merano, Ricardo, "Incorporating the Adaptive Behavior Assessment System Third Edition(ABAS-3) to Follow Cognitive and Developmental Milestones of Patients after ECLS" (2023). 2023. 11.

<https://scholarlycollection.childrens.com/nursing-anf2023/11>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Annual Nursing Fair at Children's Health Scholarly Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2023 by an authorized administrator of Children's Health Scholarly Collection. For more information, please contact [amy.six-means@childrens.com](mailto:amy.six-means@childrens.com).

# Incorporating the Adaptive Behavior Assessment System Third Edition (ABAS-3) to Follow Cognitive and Developmental Milestones of Patients after ECLS



Laura Hatton JD, BSN, RN, CCRN; Erin Tresselt, MD, Ricardo Medrano BSN, RN, CCRN; Donna Taylor, RRT-NPS; Lakshmi Raman, MD, Margarita Ramos BSN, RN, CCRN

## Background

- Patients with significant cardiopulmonary insufficiency require extracorporeal life support (ECLS)
- Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) is an international non-profit consortium that provides guidelines for healthcare institutions that provide ECLS
- These ECLS patients are at significant risk for neurological injury
- ELSO recommends structured follow-up of ECLS patients, but few programs have long-term follow-up
- At Children's Health, a core ECLS team of clinicians is available 24/7 365. This multidisciplinary team has been in existence for > 30 years and is comprised of respiratory therapists and registered nurses
- In May of 2022, the ECLS team identified an opportunity to better track neurological, social, and physical outcomes of their patients
- Using the ABAS-3 tool, the patients' pre-injury functional level was obtained based on parental feedback
- The inclusion criteria to have the initial assessment completed was >2 months of age.
- Review of the literature yielded no applicable findings for the long term (> 6 months) follow-up process after hospitalization



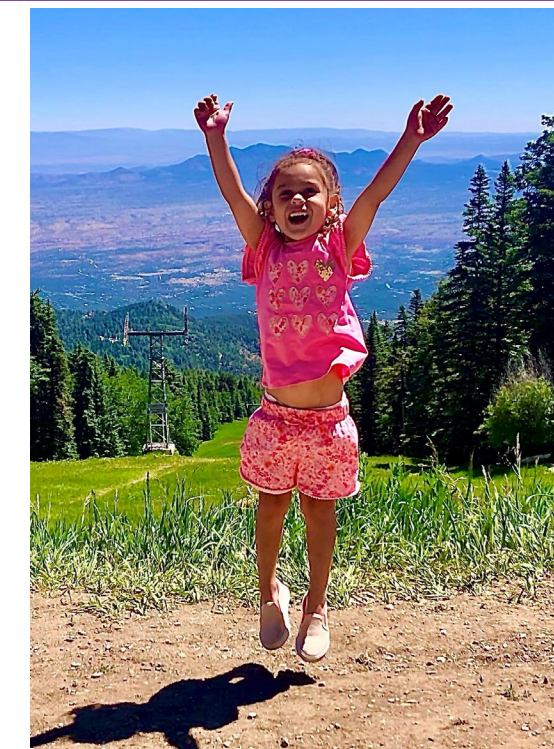
Newborn patient initiated on ECLS

## Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

- Inclusion criteria were pediatric patients > 2 months up to 20 years old
- Exclusion criteria were >20 years old, or if the family declined the survey
- Surveys were administered by six total staff members with additional training on the administration of the ABAS-3 survey to ensure inter-rater reliability
- Child's age determined the number of questions administered; which ranged from 170 to 232
- Optimization of survey timing was evaluated, families did best with survey questions administered prior to parents seeing their child
- Survey was administered within the first 3 days of cannulation to allow time for families to accept the new level of care
- Additional considerations included translation into Spanish for Spanish-speaking families, and this was completed by bilingual staff

## Outcomes

- We cared for a total of 66 ECLS patients from May 2022 to August 2023
- Out of these, 34 patients met inclusion criteria and completed assessments
- 27 patients did not meet inclusion criteria:
  - 1 family declined
  - 4 passed away with a completed survey on ECLS so could not complete post survey
  - 22 patients not in appropriate age range
- Physicians re-administered the ABAS-3 6 months post-discharge, which enabled tracking of progress with patients' milestones
- Additionally benefits of post-discharge follow up was an opportunity to connect families to needed therapies and evaluations
- In August, 2023 the ABAS-3 intake assessment was established as the new standard of care for all patients receiving ECLS



And NOW: Entering kindergarten in this year!!!

## Results/Next steps

- 6 post surveys have been completed
- Out of the remaining patients, 13 have not yet met follow up timing and 13 are deceased.
- ***Work is in progress to form a specialized clinic for post-ECLS patients***

Literature references and contact information



Grateful acknowledgement to the following: The ECLS specialists at Children's Health Dallas for diligently obtaining these surveys. Tyler Terrill, MD for his guidance with performing the ABAS-3 surveys. Christina Smith, Advanced Clinical Nurse, for her assistance with abstract and poster presentation.

