INTRODUCTION

Motor development is characterized by inter- and intra-individual variability. To study the variety of developmental pathways of gross motor development in individual infants, longitudinal research designs are preferred. Repeated examiner-administered assessments in longitudinal studies are expensive and can be burdensome for infant and parents. Therefore, the GODIVA study developed and validated a home-video protocol. The home-video recordings were assessed with the Alberta Infant Motor Scale (AIMS) to measure the motor development of infants aged 0 to 18 months. A better understanding of the variability in gross motor developmental pathways of typically developing infants, gives us the opportunity to better recognize atypical developing infants.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this pilot was to gain insight in the variability of gross motor developmental pathways of full-term born, typically developing infants.

METHOD

Participants

Parents with:

✓ a full-term born typically developing infant (6 weeks or 8.5 month old).
✓ a good understanding of the Dutch language.

RESULTS

N = 35 (≥ 3 assessments)
Cohort 1: n = 15
Cohort 2: n = 20

CONCLUSION

This pilot indicates a wide range of intra-variability in gross motor development of infants up to 16.5 months. At the age of 5.5 months, in 77% of the infants a decline in percentile scores is observed. To reveal the shape of gross motor pathways and to confirm trends, we started a larger longitudinal study.

DISCUSSION

Future research should be aimed at the following questions: Are we able to recognize specific gross motor pathways, which enables us to predict motor outcome at a certain age? Is the trend in decline in AIMS-score at 5.5 months visible in a larger sample size? Which factors influence the shape of the motor pathways? Are the current Canadian reference norms suitable for the Dutch population?

References