

# IMPORTANT INFORMATIONAL MEMO

## FOR DOCTORS ATTENDING DDH COURSES

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Dear Colleagues,

"Essentials of Infant Hip Sonography" (R. Graf; K. Lercher; S. Scott; T. Spiess) is a comprehensive guide intended to provide instructors and students with protocols for the accurate execution of ultrasound evaluations of the newborn hip. This manual presents a step-by-step teaching programme articulated with regular assessments of comprehension. This manual includes only the basics, emphasizing the essential facts. The scientific background is detailed in the referenced literature.

The Graf Method is based on extensively standardized techniques and protocols, aimed at ensuring precise and reproducible sonographic evaluations of the hip. It is imperative that healthcare professionals undergo comprehensive training to meticulously implement the Graf Method protocols, which are crucial for minimizing the risk of diagnostic errors.

Images should be captured using only standard techniques, so that healthcare professionals can accurately interpret findings and provide infants with appropriate and timely treatment. Diagnostic errors, especially as a consequence of tilting effects, during such a critical phase of hip development can result in significant and long-term consequences and may even lead to legal disputes. Adhering to the Graf Method protocols mitigates the risk of diagnostic errors, safeguarding both patients and healthcare professionals. If the protocols are not followed and the positioning devices are not used, tilting errors may happen. Thus, the diagnosis is wrong and the examination should not be considered valid. As these conditions do not comply with the Graf Method, certificates acknowledged to healthcare professionals could be invalidated.



Signature

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