

## Barlow maneuver

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The **Barlow maneuver** is a physical examination performed on infants to screen for developmental dysplasia of the hip. It is named for T. G. Barlow, an English pediatrician, who devised this test; it was clinically tested during 1957–1962 at Hope Hospital, Salford, Lancashire.

The maneuver is easily performed by **adducting** the hip (bringing the thigh towards the midline) while applying light pressure on the knee, directing the force posteriorly. If the hip is dislocatable - that is, if the hip can be popped out of socket with this maneuver - the test is considered positive. The Ortolani maneuver is then used, to confirm the positive finding (i.e., that the hip actually dislocated).

## Ortolani test/maneuver

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The **Ortolani test** or **Ortolani maneuver** is part of the physical examination for developmental dysplasia of the hip, along with the Barlow maneuver.

**It relocates the dislocation of the hip joint** that has just been elicited by the Barlow maneuver.

It is performed by an examiner first flexing the hips and knees of a supine infant to 90 degrees, then with the examiner's index fingers placing anterior pressure on the greater trochanters, gently and smoothly **abducting** the infant's legs using the examiner's thumbs. A positive sign is a distinctive 'clunk' which can be heard and felt as the femoral head relocates anteriorly into the acetabulum:

Specifically, this tests for posterior dislocation of the hip.

This is part of the standard infant exam performed preferably in early infancy; it usually becomes negative after 2 months of age.

It is performed with the Barlow maneuver and inspection of the hip joint and legs.