Newborns need another tune: « I will survive » sets neonatal resuscitation rhythm.

Vincent RIGO, MD, Jacques RIGO, MD, PhD
Division of Neonatal Medicine and Intensive Care
University of Liège
CHU CHR Liège
4000 Liège, Belgium

We read with interest D. Matlock’s abstract ¹ testing The Bee Gees song “Stayin’ Alive” to set the pace of adult CPR ². Since 2005, recommendations for performing CPR in infants, children and adults have been standardized, in part to ease memorization of the 100 beat per minute (bpm) chest compressions rate ³. However, advanced neonatal resuscitation is conducted at a rhythm of 120 events per minute, with 30 insufflations and 90 chest compressions ⁴. Providers of this procedure will not be helped by The Bee Gees. Disco music still offers songs with a tempo closer to 120 bpm. Gloria Gaynor’s “I Will Survive” (Polydor Records, 1978), at 117 bpm, could set the pace for the neonatal resuscitation team.


2. Inaba A. Perfect Teaching Tool for Timing Compressions - and Its Disco!
*Currents in Emergency Cardiovascular Care* 2006;17(3):7.