

AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE (ABR) ADULT TEST

What is an ABR test?

An Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Test measures the hearing nerve's response to sound.

Why is this test being done?

This test is given if the doctor or audiologist suspect a hearing loss that was not confirmed through a standard hearing test. This test may also be given if there is an asymmetrical hearing loss (difference) between ears or significant tinnitus (ringing in the ears); this test will help determine if there is an abnormal growth on the hearing nerve.

What happens during the test?

This is a simple test that is safe and does not hurt. You will be placed in a comfortable chair or exam table in a dim room and asked to rest or fall asleep naturally. You will need to lie still while the test is running. Sticky tabs called electrodes are placed on the forehead and earlobes. Insert earphones (earplugs) that play sounds will be placed in the ears. The electrodes are connected to a special computer that measures how the auditory nerve responds to the sounds. It may take up to 1 hour to complete the test.

How to prepare for the test:

It is best if you do not wear any facial makeup (foundation) or lotions as it may interfere with the sticky tab electrodes. Eye makeup is acceptable and will not interfere with the testing. You may take your daily medications as usual if this test is being done in the office.

If this test is being done in addition to same day surgery, please follow hospital surgery guidelines for anesthesia.

Questions?

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding ABR testing, please contact the audiology department at 715-930-1940.