

AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE (ABR) TEST INSTRUCTIONS

Children & Infants less than 6 months

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 your infant has failed the newborn hearing screening given after birth. For an older child, the doctor or audiologist may suspect a hearing loss that was not confirmed through a standard hearing test.

What happens during the test?

This is a simple test that is safe and does not hurt. The child sleeps and lies perfectly still while the test is running. Sticky tabs called electrodes are placed on the child's forehead and earlobes. Insert earphones (earplugs) that play sounds will be placed in the child's ears. The electrodes are connected to a special computer that measures how the child's auditory nerve responds to the sounds. It may take up to 3 hours to complete the test.

How to prepare for the test:

For infants less than 6 months – It is important that your baby sleeps during this test. Bring the baby to the appointment ready to nap and feed. In the hours prior to the appointment and in the waiting room it is best to hold off on feeding and napping. Once the baby has been prepped for the test, we highly recommend nursing or bottle feeding to allowing the baby to fall asleep naturally. During the test you will be in a recliner with your baby in your arms resting comfortably. Please do not bring other siblings.

For children – If the test is being done in the office, your child will need to close their eyes and nap in a recliner or bed. Your child will need to be quiet and still for the entire test. Please do not bring noisy toys and other siblings. We recommend bringing a blanket and stuffed animal for the child to be comfortable. We will not be able to test if the child is crying or moving around and may have to reschedule. If the child is unable to be tested in the clinic and is undergoing a surgical procedure, the testing may be performed at that time while the child is under anesthesia.

***** Note: If this test is being done in addition to same day surgery, please follow hospital surgery guidelines for undergoing anesthesia *****

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the audiology department at 715-930-1940.