

Palouse ENT & Audiology

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR BABY'S HEARING TEST

Why is it important?

A diagnostic hearing evaluation is needed to determine if a hearing loss is present, especially if your baby did not pass the newborn hearing screening. If a hearing loss is identified, early intervention is critical to help prevent delays in speech and language development.

What is it?

The test, which is known as an auditory brainstem response (ABR) evaluation, measures how your baby's hearing nerve responds to sound and sends it to the brain. The ABR is used in combination with other tests to determine if a hearing loss is present. The testing takes approximately one to two hours.

What can you do?

The test is very sensitive to any eye or muscle movement from the baby; therefore, testing cannot be done if the baby is awake. Please schedule the test during your baby's natural sleeping time. **Your baby must be sleeping for the test.** It is best if the baby comes to the appointment hungry and tired. There will be time during the appointment, after the equipment is set up, to feed your baby and get your baby to sleep. Please bring prepared bottles (if you are bottle feeding), diapers, and anything else you might need to keep your baby comfortable.

Recommendations to help ensure your baby sleeps during the test:

- Keep your baby up later than normal the night before the test.
- Get your baby up early the morning of the test and try to skip naps (use your judgment when deciding how long to keep your baby awake prior to the test).
- Limit food for a couple of hours prior to the test (use your judgment when deciding how long to withhold food).
- Try not to let your baby sleep on the drive to the clinic. It may be helpful to bring a friend to entertain the baby in the car if you are traveling a long distance.
- It is best if young siblings are not brought to the appointment because the testing room needs to be very quiet.
- If you have twins, please try to bring a second adult to the appointment to watch one twin while the other is being tested.

Due to the importance and duration of the testing, please make every effort to keep this appointment. If your child is sick, has a current ear infection or you need to reschedule in general please contact the office to as soon as possible. Thank you!