



Patient Instructions for Infants for Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) & Brainstem Auditory Response (ABR)

We require the patient to remain asleep in order to achieve successful and accurate results. For this test to be performed on infants the patient should be sleep deprived so that they remain asleep during testing. Therefore we attempt to schedule these tests during or near the infant's natural sleeping time. If the infant cannot be scheduled during their natural sleeping time, we advise on planning to arrive 30 minutes prior to the patients scheduled appointment time and abstain from feeding the infant until they arrive to our office. If it is possible, a second person during transport to keep the infant awake in the car until they arrive to the office for their testing is recommended. Duration of this test varies with the patient's age and their ability to remain asleep. Typically this testing lasts no more than an hour for infants.

OAE - This test is used to check the response of the outer hair cells in the inner ear. A small probe is placed in the ear and a quiet sound is presented to the ear. A normal inner ear will produce an echo which can be recorded with a computer. This determines the function of the inner ear. The patient does not need to respond to these sounds. The presence of Otoacoustic Emissions means that the hair cells are functioning and are able to respond to sound in a normal way. This test helps diagnose whether the pathology is in the hair cells or in the hearing nerve.

ABR – This test is often ordered if a newborn that was in the NICU does not pass the hearing screening performed at the hospital shortly after birth or for older children if there is a suspicion of hearing loss that was not confirmed through more conventional hearing tests. The test uses a computer to measure the way the patients hearing nerve responds to different sounds. Electrodes will be placed on the patients head and ears and be connected to a computer. As sounds are made through the earphones, the electrodes measure how the patients hearing nerves respond to them. The ABR test is safe and does not hurt but can only be accurate if the child is sleeping or lying perfectly still, relaxed and with their eyes closed.

In the event that you have to cancel or reschedule the testing appointment or are running late, please be sure to contact our office as soon as possible.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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