

What is an ABR test?

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

Why is this ABR test being done?

This test is given if the physician 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 the 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 ABR 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 dimly lit room and asked to rest or fall asleep naturally. You will need to lie still while the test is running. Any tension or muscle movement can slow down the testing process, thus it is very important to be relaxed during this test. Your forehead and earlobes will be scrubbed clean and sticky tabs called electrodes are placed on your forehead and earlobes. Insert earphones (earplugs) that play sounds will be placed in your ears. The electrodes are connected to a special computer that measures how the auditory nerve responds to the sounds. This test may take up to one hour to complete.

How to prepare for this 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. If earrings are worn, they may be asked to be removed prior to 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.

What is an ECochG test?

An Electrocochleography (ECochG) Test measures the inner ear's response to sound.

Why is this ECochG test being done?

This test is most often used by the physician or audiologist to determine if the inner ear has an excessive amount of fluid pressure, which can cause symptoms such as hearing loss, aural fullness, dizziness, and/or tinnitus.

What happens during the ECochG 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 dimly lit room and asked to rest or fall asleep naturally. You will need to lie still while the test is running. Any tension or muscle movement can slow down the testing process, thus it is very important to be relaxed during this test. Your forehead and ear canals will be scrubbed clean and a sticky tab called an electrode is placed on your forehead. Insert earphone (earplug) electrodes that play sounds will be placed in your ears. The electrodes are connected to a special computer that measures how the auditory nerve responds to the sounds. This test may take up to one hour to complete.

How to prepare for this test:

It is best if you do not wear any facial makeup (foundation) or lotions as it may interfere with the sticky tab electrode. 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 or ECochG testing, please contact the audiology department at 715-828-2368.