



ABR Hearing Test Instructions

Your child has been scheduled for an Auditory Brainstem Evoked Response (ABR) test. The ABR is a test of auditory (hearing) function and can determine whether your child has normal hearing or hearing loss. Special stickers called electrodes will be placed on your child's head and small earphones will be placed in the ears. During the test, we will use the electrodes to look for a specific pattern of brainwaves that tell us whether or not your child is hearing sound at different frequencies (pitches) and loudness levels. The test is painless for your child and may take up to two hours depending on how well your child sleeps and whether a hearing loss is identified. Typically, you will be given results the same day.

Preparing for your appointment

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment time to complete the paperwork and verify insurance. Failure to do so may result in limiting test time and incomplete results.

It is important that your child sleep for the ABR testing. Suggestions to help your child sleep are:

1. Wake your child up earlier than usual so that they will be sleepy for the test. If testing is near naptime, please delay the nap until you have been taken back for your appointment.
2. Delay feeding closest to the appointment time and wait to feed your child until you are called back for your appointment. Please bring a bottle and formula to the appointment.
3. Please try not to let your child sleep during the car ride to our office. It may be helpful to bring a second adult in the car to keep the child awake. Often we see that an infant who sleeps on the way here then will not sleep for the test.
4. Please bring any sleep aids such as pacifiers and special blankets. Also, it is helpful if other young children do not come to this appointment.

Upon arrival for your appointment

Once we bring you back into the clinic for your appointment, there should be ample time for you to feed and get your child to sleep. Although the appointment is scheduled for two hours, the actual test time will be shorter if your baby sleeps soundly throughout testing.

Remember: Wake your child up early, delay nap and feeding until appointment. A tired, hungry and cranky child at the start of the appointment usually sleeps best!

Please note that if your child does not sleep, testing may not be completed and may need to be rescheduled. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 317-338-6815.

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