

Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders

Your baby's visit to the audiology clinic for a hearing assessment following a diagnosis of meningitis

Your child has been referred to the Audiology Clinic for a hearing test following a suspected or confirmed meningitis diagnosis.

The following information will help to prepare you and your baby for the hearing test at the Audiology Clinic (Clinic 8)

All children diagnosed with suspected or confirmed meningitis are at risk of developing a permanent hearing loss, so it's important that we see your child for testing.

Testing techniques

There are two types of tests we may do at your appointment.

Otoacoustic Emission (OAE)

During this test, a sound is played through the ear tip. If the sound is being heard, the ear creates a sound in response that can be recorded by the microphone in the ear tip. This response appears as a pattern on a chart on the computer screen. If the baby can hear the sound, then the pattern recorded shows clear lines at different pitches.



Patient Information

Evoked Response Audiometry (ERA) test

During this test, different sounds are played through earphones or a headband at different volumes. The recording leads can pick up the sound as it enters the baby's ear and moves along the hearing nerve.

If the sound is heard, the hearing nerve creates a signal that can be recorded by the recording leads. On the computer screen, this signal appears as a wave pattern on a chart with peaks going up and down.

Preparation

The appointment will usually take about 1 to 2 hours. This includes time to settle your baby – your baby needs to be asleep whilst testing is undertaken. Settling your baby may take a while, so bring anything you need which you think will help your child to sleep, such as blankets, milk, or a favourite soft toy.

The tests will not hurt or be uncomfortable for your baby. You can stay with your baby while the tests are done. You may want to bring a partner, friend or relative to the appointment with you.

Testing

Once your baby is asleep, the audiologist will put some sensors on your child's head. One will go on the forehead, and one will go behind each ear.

A small soft tip will be put in your baby's ear, and some clicking sounds will be played. We'll then record how your baby's ears respond to sound on a computer.

After the hearing test

The hearing test will finish once enough information has been obtained or if your child wakes up. The audiologist will usually explain the results of the test at the end of the appointment. The audiologist will explain what the results mean and if any more tests are needed.

Patient Information

If you have any questions about your visit, please contact the Paediatric Audiology Team on **024 7696 6440**.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please ask or call **024 7696 6440** and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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Document History

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