

Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Test



What is an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Test?

- It is a safe, non-invasive hearing assessment used to measure how well your child's hearing nerve responds to sounds.
- Through this test, doctors can determine whether your child's ears and hearing pathways are functioning properly.



How Does It Work?

- During the test, your child simply sleeps without having to respond to any sounds or instructions.
- Small sensor patches are placed on your child's forehead and behind each ear.
- Soft clicking sounds or tones are played through small earphones while your child sleeps.
- The sensors record the hearing nerves' responses to these sounds, providing precise information about your child's hearing ability.

Why Do Children Often Sleep During the Test?

- The test works best when your child is calm, still, or asleep.
- Infants under 3 months generally do not require sedation, as the test can typically be performed during natural sleep.
- For babies over 3 months old, a mild oral sedative may be used to help them sleep during the test.
- For older children, mild sedation may occasionally be required if they are unable to remain still.
- Sleeping helps minimise movement and allows for more accurate and reliable results.



How Long Does the Test Take?

- It usually takes 1–2 hours, depending on your child's age and level of cooperation.
- Parents may remain with their child throughout the procedure.



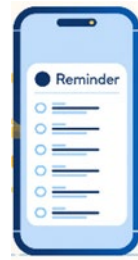
Why Is It important?

- Good hearing is essential for speech, language, and learning development.
- Early detection of hearing problems allows timely intervention, such as hearing aids, therapy, or other appropriate support.
- The ABR test provides doctors with accurate information to guide the next steps in your child's care.



Key Reminders for Parents:

- To help your child sleep during the test, keep them up later than usual the night before and wake them up earlier in the morning.
- Try to keep them awake until the test, especially during the trip to the clinic.
- Ensure your child wears comfortable clothing for the procedure.
- To help them feel more at ease, you may bring familiar comfort items such as their pacifier, blanket, or favourite toy.
- To ensure accurate results, avoid applying lotions or oils on your child's face or hair on the day of the test.
- For your child's safety, please ensure they do not have food, milk or water for 2 hours before receiving sedation.
- The appointment may need to be rescheduled if your child feels unwell on the test day or doesn't fall asleep despite sedation.
- For children with multiple medical conditions, or those who are not deemed suitable for sedation, the medical team will discuss alternative arrangements with you.



National University Hospital

5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074

OneNUHS Hotline: (65) 6908 2222

OneNUHS General Enquiries: contactus@nuhs.edu.sg

OneNUHS Appointments: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

www.nuh.com.sg

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