

# Auditory brainstem response (ABR) test with sedation

Your child has been referred for an auditory brainstem response (ABR) test with sedation. If you have any questions, please contact us on 020 3049 8592.



## Auditory brainstem response test

An auditory brainstem response (ABR) test checks your child's hearing. The test records how your child's brain responds to sounds. It's safe and painless.



## Where to go

Please go to the children's day unit at St Thomas' Hospital. You can find us on Snow Fox ward, 1st floor, staircase or lift D, in South wing.



## How long you will be at hospital

Please expect to be at the hospital for most of the day. Preparing for the test, having the test and any checks after can take time.

The test will take 20 to 40 minutes, and you can stay with your child.



## Preparing for the test

Please follow these instructions before your child's test:

- no food 6 hours before the appointment time
- no breast milk 4 hours before the appointment time
- no water 2 hours before the appointment time



## What you need to bring

Your child will be hungry and thirsty when they wake up. There is food and drink available, for example sandwiches, hot water and cold drinks. Please bring food and drink with you if your child has a special diet.

You may also want to bring:

- their favourite toys
- videos or films
- change of clothes
- nappies

Please do not bring other children to the appointment.

## Giving your permission (consent)

We want to involve you in decisions about your child's care and treatment. You will be asked to confirm that you are happy for us to do the test. If you would like more information about our consent process, please speak to a member of staff caring for you.

## During the test

When you get to your appointment the nurses will take you and your child to a bed space.

You will be asked some questions and nurses will do some checks. The doctor will check sedation is safe for your child, and you're happy for your child to have sedation and the test.

Your child will be given sedation before the test. Sedation is a medicine that is used safely to induce sleep and is less invasive than general anaesthesia.

Sedation is usually given by a suppository (medicine put into the bottom). It can take up to an hour for the sedation to work and your child may feel restless. If this does not help your child to fall asleep they may be given a small amount of liquid medicine. This is put into their mouth and massaged into their cheek.

When they are asleep, sensor pads (electrodes) will be put on your child's head. Sounds are then played through earphones to your child. The sensors record how well the sound reaches from the ear to the brainstem.

### Side effects

The test is safe and painless. There are no side effects to this testing. The sensors put on your child's head may make their skin dry.

## After the test

When the test is finished you may want to wake your child up, or let them sleep a bit longer.

They will need to eat and drink something, and be able to walk steadily before they can go home. This can take some time because your child may be drowsy and unsteady when they wake up.

### Getting the test results

You will usually be given the results on the same day as the test. Sometimes it can take longer to get the results. Your clinician will arrange a phone call if this is the case. This does not mean your child has a hearing problem.

## Contact us

If you have any questions about auditory brainstem response testing, please contact the children and young people's audiology centre.

**Phone** 020 3049 8592, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm



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