

Cortical auditory evoked potentials (CAEP) testing

This information explains what CAEP testing is, and how you can prepare your child for the tests. If you have any questions, please speak to someone caring for your child.

This test helps us to check someone's responses to speech sounds if it might be difficult to know from their behaviour, how well they are hearing. This test can be used to help us decide if your child needs hearing aids. If your child has already been fitted with hearing aids, it can help us determine how well they are hearing with them. It's a safe and painless test.

How to prepare your child for their appointment

We need your baby or child to be alert and awake, so avoid choosing appointments that would be during their typical nap times, or shortly before they are due a feed, where they might be restless.

If your child wears hearing aids with ear moulds, these need to be a good fit. If necessary, please make an appointment to have new moulds made before coming for a CAEP test.

What you need to bring

Please bring your child's hearing aids (if they have some). If you think your child will want to be fed, or might like particular toys or books to look at, please bring them with you. Please do not bring other children to the appointment.

How long you will be at hospital

The appointment will take about 1.5 hours. We try to complete testing in one appointment, but it might be necessary to arrange another one.

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

Babies and children need to be awake, relaxed and quiet for the test. We will need to prepare the skin on your child's forehead and behind their ears. Sensor pads (electrodes) will be put on your child's head.

Different speech-shaped sounds (representing 'm', 'g', 't' and 's') can be presented through a loudspeaker at different intensities (soft speech, conversational speech, loud speech levels). The sounds and levels we use in the appointment will be chosen based on what we want to find out about your child's hearing.

During the test the small sensors on your child's head measure how the hearing pathways in their brain respond to the sound. These responses are then analysed on a computer.

If you need to move around to settle your baby or to change their nappy, there will be times we can take a short break.

Some adjustments to the hearing aids might be made during the appointment. We might also do some extra tests to help us understand the details of the results. These will be explained to you in the appointment if they are needed.

Side effects

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

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 as they might need extra reviewing. If this happens, the clinician will arrange a phone call with you to discuss the results.

Contact us

If you have any questions about this test, please contact the audiology centre.

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

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **web** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), **phone** 020 7188 8801 **email** pals@gstt.nhs.uk. To make a complaint contact the resolution department **phone** 020 7188 3514 **email** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please contact the department your appointment is with.

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day, **phone** 111 **web** www.111.nhs.uk



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