

Dear Parent / Guardian

General Anaesthetic (GA) Hearing Test Appointment Auditory Brainstem Response ABR

We have received a referral for your child to have a hearing test under general anesthetic. An appointment letter will be included with this leaflet or sent to your home address shortly.

An Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test produces estimates of hearing by measuring the electrophysiological responses at the brainstem to sounds presented to each ear.

Preparing for the test

Please see our information leaflet entitled 'Your child's General Anaesthetic' for further details about the anaesthetic procedure and preparations for this:

[Your child's general anaesthetic | Great Ormond Street Hospital \(gosh.nhs.uk\)](https://www.gosh.nhs.uk)

General anaesthesia is used to induce a controlled reversible level of sleep. This will enable the ABR to be carried out under the best possible conditions while your child is still, calm and asleep.

For the GA ABR you will attend the hospital as a day patient. Consent will need to be agreed beforehand, with a form signed by parent/guardian in person or electronically before the GA ABR is arranged. The consent will be re-confirmed at the hospital on the day of the GA ABR procedure.

What does the test involve?

Once your child has been put to sleep by the Anaesthetist we will clean your child's skin on their forehead and behind each ear by using a mildly abrasive gel and cotton wool to exfoliate the skin for better skin contact when electrodes (three or four sticky pads, depending on the equipment used) are placed on the skin. The electrodes will be removed at the end of the test.

Sounds will be normally presented to each ear via either a headphone cupped over the ear, or an earphone presented via a soft foam tip into the ear. Depending on the results, sounds may also be presented via a headband holding a small vibrating box held just behind the ear (in this case sounds are transmitted to the inner ear via vibration). Depending on the responses seen or not seen, the presentation level of the sounds will be varied to determine hearing levels. The test typically takes 90 minutes to complete.

What happens afterwards?

Once the test has finished, we will gently peel off the sticky pads and wipe away the gel and remove any testing equipment. Occasionally, there may be a marking on the skin where the sticky pad was, this should disappear within 24 hours. The Anaesthetist will then wake up your child and take them to the recovery area.

The audiologist will aim to give a brief description of test findings to you just after testing, but there may be occasions where this is not possible, and instead, the audiologist will contact you later. Note, however, that all results need to be peer reviewed before a definitive description of test findings can be given. After results have been checked, a letter will be written to yourselves and the audio-vestibular doctors involved in your child's care, which may involve further consultations with them

depending on the results. They will also explain what the tests have shown and discuss treatment and management where required.

If you have any questions, please call the Audiology Department on 020 7813 8315.

This document must be read in conjunction with all Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust Policies and Procedures			
Code:	AUD/0383	Owner:	Clinical Lead
Effective Date:	01/11/2023	Next Review:	01/11/2025
Document Version: 1			