

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potentials (BAEP)

Information for patients, parents and carers

This leaflet is written to provide information for patients attending for a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential (BAEP).

What is a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential (BAEP)?

This is a painless test that records the function of a nerve pathway between your child's ear and their brain. This is done by using a clicking noise through a set of headphones. Recording this information will assist the consultant in the diagnosis and management of your child's complaint/condition.

What will happen during the test?

A Clinical Physiologist will be performing the test - although staff in training might be present during the investigation. The Clinical Physiologist will explain each part of the test to you and your child, answer any questions you might have and get your consent.

They will then ask you a few questions in order to get relevant clinical information about your child's condition/symptoms. Several small electrodes (coloured discs) will then be placed on your child's head using a sticky (adhesive) paste. Headphones will then be placed over your child's head and your child will hear a series of clicking noises for several minutes.

The whole test will last approximately 45 minutes.

What should my child do before the test?

- Please ensure that your child's hair is clean and do not use any hair products (such as gel or hairspray)
- Your child should continue to take their medication as normal and bring along a list of their current medication
- Do not allow your child to listen to excessive or very loud noise for 24 hours before the test.

What will happen after the test?

The electrodes will be removed using warm water. Your child's hair will feel sticky and you may wish to wash their hair when you return home.

You will not receive any results on the day of the test. The results will be returned to your child's consultant. This process may take up to 2-3 weeks.

What are the side effects of the test?

There are no reported risks associated with this test.

Additional information

Occasionally some people will find the test difficult to tolerate. If you feel that your child will struggle with any part of the test, please telephone the department (contact details are at the end of this leaflet). We are happy to accommodate any special arrangements.

Keeping your appointment

If you cannot keep your child's appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.

Public transport and travel information

Bus details available from:

Lothian Buses on **0131 555 6363** or www.lothianbuses.co.uk

Traveline Scotland on **08712002233** or www.travelinescotland.com

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on **03457 484 950** or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Patient transport

Patient Transport will only be made available if you have a medical/clinical need.

Telephone **0300 123 1236** *calls charged at local rate up to 28 days in advance to book, making sure you have your CHI Number available. Hard of hearing or speech impaired? Use text relay: **18001-0300 123 1236*** (calls charged at local rate). To cancel patient transport, telephone 0800 389 1333 (Freephone 24 hr answer service).

Interpretation and translation

Your GP will inform us of any interpreting requirements you have before you come to hospital and we will provide an appropriate interpreter. If you are having this procedure as an existing in-patient, staff will arrange interpreting support for you in advance of this procedure. This leaflet may be made available in a larger print, Braille or your community language.

Contact Information

Paediatric Neurophysiology

Royal Hospital for Children and Young People

Telephone: **0131 312 1506**