

Auditory Brainstem Response Testing (Adults)

An Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) is an objective test that measures “brainwaves” produced when the ear hears sounds. It is used to help estimate hearing thresholds and diagnose abnormalities along the auditory (hearing) pathway. ABRs are generally performed on patients with an asymmetrical hearing loss or significant ringing in the ears (tinnitus).

What Happens During ABR Test

During the test the audiologist will place sensors (electrodes) on the forehead and behind each ear. These sensors measure the nerve activity that is generated every time sound is played. Headphones will be placed in the ear that play a special sound that stimulates the auditory system. The procedure is performed while the patient is quietly sitting in a chair relaxed. The entire test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Please do not wear any makeup to the appointment as it may interfere with the sensors.