

Infant Auditory Brainstem Response Test Information Sheet

What is an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Test?

Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) testing is a hearing test performed while a child is sleeping. Electrodes are placed on the forehead and near each ear. Different sounds are played through earphones, and the child's brainwaves are recorded in response to the sounds played. This information will help determine if your child has typical hearing or if they have hearing loss. Hearing loss can range from minimal to profound in one or both ears. Hearing loss, if left undiagnosed, can affect a child's speech and language development, cause learning delays, and impact their social skills. Detecting hearing loss early, preferably no later than six months of age, helps prevent speech and language and other associated development delays.

What are my instructions for the appointment?

- Your child must be sleeping during this test in order to obtain results. We ask that you bring your baby to the appointment tired and hungry and then feed your baby at the appointment. While we understand that this can be very challenging, it is best if you do not let your child sleep in the car ride to the clinic. This will help your baby be ready to sleep for the test.
- Please allow up to 2 hours for this test. The test itself may not take two hours, however, we allow extra time in case your baby has difficulty falling asleep.
- Please bring extra diapers, milk or formula to feed the baby, blankets and a pacifier in order to insure your child's comfort.
- Please arrive at the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic 15 minutes before your appointment to allow for parking and paperwork. The Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic is located at 223 N. Lime Street. Parking is in the rear of the building in the yellow lined spaces labeled LCPC. Come to the front of the building to enter.
- The test is conducted in a small, quiet room. We suggest you do not bring other young children with you. Please make plans for family or friends to care for your other children while you are at the clinic for this appointment.
- If you need to cancel or reschedule this appointment, please call **(717) 394-3793** or email **rsharnetzka@cleftclinic.org**. In order to have information about your child's hearing as early as possible, we encourage you to keep your original appointment.