

Hearing Screening Refer Result

Diagnostic ABR Hearing Test Needed



Your baby needs a diagnostic ABR hearing test because:

- Your baby didn't pass the hearing screening.
- Hearing screening wasn't done because your baby was born with certain health issues.



What is the diagnostic ABR hearing test?

Your baby is being referred for a more specialized hearing test called a diagnostic Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) hearing test. This test is done by a pediatric audiologist (a health care provider who specializes in children's hearing) at the audiology service location closest to you. You will be contacted to book this appointment.

Why is it important to take my baby for a diagnostic ABR?

The diagnostic ABR is the best way to find out if your baby has hearing loss. The test is safe and won't hurt your baby. The earlier hearing loss is found, the sooner your baby will get the services they need to support their speech, language, learning, social and emotional development.

What happens at the diagnostic ABR appointment?

The test is done while your baby sleeps. The appointment is scheduled for up to 3 hours to allow time for your baby to fall asleep and to do the test. You can sit and hold your baby during the test. Two sensors are placed on your baby's forehead and one behind each ear. A small, soft tip is put into each ear to play quiet sounds. The sensors record the response of the hearing nerve to sound.

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Learn more at [AHS.ca/ehdi](https://www.alberta.ca/ehdi) or by calling Health Link at 811.

NOVEMBER 2018



Early Hearing Detection
& Intervention Program

When should my baby have a diagnostic ABR?

It's important that your baby has the diagnostic ABR testing preferably when they are between 4 and 8 weeks old. The test is easiest to do in babies of this age because they sleep a lot, so the test is often shorter and can be done in 1 appointment. The older a baby is, the more alert they are, so the test can take longer or may need to be done over several appointments.

What can I do to help prepare my baby for a diagnostic ABR?

Try to bring your baby awake to the appointment. We know it's not easy, but your baby must be sleeping during the test.

To help your baby sleep during the test:

- Keep your baby awake for at least 1 hour before the test.
- Try not to feed your baby for about 1 ½ hours before the appointment. You can feed your baby when the test begins to help them fall asleep.
- Bring any special blankets or items that may help your baby fall asleep.

What will happen after the diagnostic ABR?

The audiologist will share the results of the test and explain them to you. Most of the time, you will get the test results on the same day as the test. If the test finds that your baby has permanent hearing loss, another ABR test may be needed to better understand how your baby is hearing different sounds. You will also be referred to other specialists to help support you and your child.

Where can I get more information?

Visit AHS.ca/ehdi to learn more about the diagnostic ABR hearing test and the EHDI Program.

Please keep these instructions. You will need them to prepare for the test.



Learn more at AHS.ca/ehdi or by calling Health Link at 811.

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