

Neurophysiology department

Your brainstem auditory evoked potential test (BAEP)

Information for patients, relatives, and carers

This leaflet explains what a brainstem auditory evoked potential (BAEP) test is and how to prepare for it. We hope it answers any questions that you or those who care for you may have. This leaflet does not replace the discussion between you and your care team but aims to help you understand more about what is discussed. If there is anything that you do not understand please ask your care team.

What is a brainstem auditory evoked potential (BAEP) test?

A BAEP test studies the nerve pathway between the ear and the brain. The test is carried out by a clinical physiologist and is painless.

Preparing for the test

- Continue to take your medication as normal
- Please eat and drink as normal
- Please bring a list of your current medication with you to the appointment
- Please wash your hair before the test and do not use any hair products such as gel or hairspray
- Please remove any hair extensions/weave/wig before the test

Please arrive on time for your appointment. If you are running late, please call us on the appropriate number listed on page 3, otherwise we may have to cancel or reschedule your test.

At your appointment

- You will be called in by the clinical physiologist who will explain the test and ask you to sign a consent form
- they will ask about your medical history and to see the list of your current medication
- The clinical physiologist will use a crayon to make a few markings on your head and around both ears. The area will be rubbed with an abrasive gel which can feel like a small scratch

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- Electrodes (small metal discs) will be attached to your head using a conducting paste. The paste can leave your hair feeling sticky but this will come off very easily when you wash your hair
 - We will give you headphones to wear during the test
 - You will listen to a series of clicks and the responses will be recorded on a screen
 - When the test is completed, the physiologist will remove the electrodes and gently clean the area
 - The results will be analysed and a report will be sent out to your referring consultant. This usually takes up to two weeks
 - The test lasts between 30 and 45 minutes

Risk or complications following the test

There are no known side effects of having a BAEP test.

Contact details

If you cannot make your test or have any questions or concerns about your appointment please contact the relevant neurophysiology department:

- St Marys Hospital: **020 3312 6628**
- Charing Cross Hospital: **020 3311 1329 / 7515**

We are open Monday–Friday, 09.00–17.00.

How do I comment on my visit?

If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross Hospital) or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's Hospital). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:
Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY
Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net
Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.communications@nhs.net