

Brainstem auditory evoked potential examination

Purpose of the Examination

The purpose of the brainstem auditory evoked potential examination (BAEP) is to study the activity of the nerve pathways between the ear and the brainstem.

Preparing for the Examination

- Ear wax in the ear canal may affect examination results. Please arrange an appointment at your local health station or child health centre, where a nurse can inspect and flush your ear canals before the examination. The examination will not be performed if there is an ear wax blockage in your ear.
- If you have an infection in your middle ear or ear canal, the examination will be postponed until the infection has passed.
- You can take any regularly taken medicine as you normally would. You can also eat and drink normally before the examination.

Examination Process

The examination does not cause pain and it lasts for about an hour. Audio stimuli are played alternately in both ears via ear-plug-like measurement sensors placed in your ear canals. The potentials caused by the stimuli are recorded by adhesive labels placed on the surface of the skin on your head. During the examination, you will rest, as relaxed as possible, either lying on your back or in a half-sitting position.

After the Examination

The clinical neurophysiologist will analyse the examination and write a report about it. The report is directed to the clinic/ward that ordered the examination. They will inform you of the examination results and any possible follow-ups.