

For parents of babies having a BAEP examination

Purpose of the Examination

In BAEP (Brainstem auditory evoked potential) examination, the baby's hearing is studied. The activity of the nerve pathways between the ear and the brainstem are evaluated by playing sounds via small earphones. Hearing thresholds are also measured.

Preparing for the Examination

Earwax in the ear canal may affect the examination results. Because of this, the baby's ears are inspected and cleaned at the neonatal ward before the examination.

It is important to feed the baby before the examination, so that he/she would sleep peacefully during the examination. You should also bring along additional food supplies and a dummy/pacifier.

If the baby has a regular sleep pattern, it would be good to keep him/her awake, if possible, before the examination so that he/she would sleep during the examination.

Examination Process

First, the skin on the baby's head is cleaned with room-temperature cleaning agent. Small measurement labels (sensors) are attached on the surface of the skin. A gauze might be wrapped around the baby's head to ensure that the sensors stay in place.

Small plug-like earphones are inserted in the baby's ears, through which the sound stimuli (clicking) to be tested is played. In most cases, the sound played has a calming effect on the baby. The examination is completely painless, even though the baby might find the attachment of labels unpleasant.

The examination consists of many phases and is very sensitive to disturbances caused by, for example, movement, so **you should reserve up to 2 hours for the examination.**

After the Examination

A clinical neurophysiologist will analyse the test results. You can hear the results afterwards during a possible visit at the neonatal ward.