

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potentials (BAEP)

Information for patients

This leaflet aims to provide information for patients attending for a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential (BAEP).

What is a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential (BAEP)?

This is a painless test that records the function of a nerve pathway between your ear and your brain. This is done by using a clicking noise through a set of headphones. Recording this information will assist your consultant in the diagnosis and management of your complaint/condition.

What will happen during the test?

A Clinical Physiologist will be performing the test- although staff in training might be present during the investigation. The Clinical Physiologist will explain each part of the test to you and answer any questions you might have.

They will then ask you a few questions in order to get relevant clinical information about your condition/symptoms. Several small electrodes (coloured discs) will then be placed on your head using a sticky (adhesive) paste. Headphones will then be placed over your head and you will hear a series of clicking noises for several minutes.

The whole test will last approximately 45 minutes.

What should I do before the test?

- Please ensure that your hair is clean and do not use any hair products (such as gel or hairspray)
- Please continue to take your medication as normal and bring along a list of your current medication
- Do not listen to excessive or very loud noise for 24 hours before the test
- You are welcome to bring a friend or relative to accompany you to your appointment.

What will happen after the test?

The electrodes will be removed using warm water. Your hair will feel sticky and you may wish to wash your hair when you return home.

You will not receive any results on the day of the test. The results will be returned to your consultant. This process may take up to 2-3 weeks.

What are the side effects of the test?

There are no reported risks associated with this test.

Additional information

Occasionally some people will find the test difficult to tolerate. If you feel that you will struggle with any part of the test, please telephone the department (contact details are at the end of this leaflet). We are happy to accommodate any special arrangements.

Changing or cancelling your appointment

If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.

Public transport and travel information

Bus details available from:

Lothian Buses on **0131 555 6363** or www.lothianbuses.co.uk

Traveline Scotland on **08712002233** or www.travelinescotland.com

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on **03457 484 950** or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Patient transport

Patient Transport will only be made available if you have a medical/clinical need.

Telephone **0300 123 1236** up to 28 days in advance to book, making sure you have your CHI Number ready (this appears on your appointment letter). Calls charged at local rate.

Hard of hearing or speech impaired? Text: **18001-0300 123 1236** (calls charged at local rate). To cancel patient transport, telephone **0800 389 1333** (Freephone 24 hr answer service).

Interpretation and translation

Your GP will inform us of any interpreting requirements you have before you come to hospital and we will provide an appropriate interpreter. If you are having this procedure as an existing in-patient, staff will arrange interpreting support for you in advance of this procedure. This leaflet may be made available in a larger print, Braille or your community language.

Contact Information

Department of Clinical Neurophysiology
Outpatients' Department (OPD) 15

Telephone: **0131 312 1505 / 0131 312 1509**