



ENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE (ABR) TESTING

Your child has been scheduled for Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) testing. This test measures brainwave activity in response to sound. Electrodes are taped on the head and earphones are placed in the ears. Since the child must be relaxed and have little or no movement, the test is administered when the child is sleeping. The test time can vary between one to five hours; therefore, it is critical that the child sleeps as long as possible. A mild sedative (either oral or suppository) will be administered by the nurse to help the child sleep. The sedation by itself is not enough to make the child sleep. The purpose of the sedation is to promote sleepiness in a child that has already been sleep deprived. Since it is imperative to the success of the test that the child is sleeping, please follow these instructions:

Sleep deprive your child. Keep your child up past his bedtime the night before the test and wake him much earlier than he is used to the day of the test.

Plan on activities to stimulate bedtime once you arrive for the test. For example:

Bring your child in pajamas or comfortable clothing.

Bring a bottle.

Bring your child's favorite blanket, toy, book, etc. to simulate activities used prior to his bedtime.

Pre-sedation fasting guidelines before elective sedation

Infants less than 6 months: May be given formula (e.g., Similac, SMA, Enfamil, etc.) up to 6 hours prior to procedure or breastmilk up to 3 hours prior to procedure.

Infants 6-36 months: No milk/formula, orange juice, any juice with pulp, carbonated beverages, or solid food including candy and chewing gum for 8 hours prior to procedure.

For all ages, CLEAR liquids including water, apple juice, oral electrolyte solution, popsicles, non-carbonated beverages (e.g., flat ginger ale) can be taken three hours before sedation.

After completion of administration of the medication, recovery time is to be at least 30 minutes. Monitoring will continue until discharge criteria are met or as determined by the physician.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN RE-SCHEDULING THE TEST.

Please notify the Audiology Department at (708) 216-3821 should you have any questions. Please contact us 24 hours prior to appointment time if you need to change or cancel the appointment.