

Recording nerve and brain activity with a brainstem auditory evoked potential (BAEP) (adults)

Clinical Neurophysiology

Information for Patients

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Your consultant has asked us to do an brainstem auditory evoked potential (BAEP). This sheet tells you what a BAEP is and what you need to know before you come for the appointment.

What is an BAEP?

An evoked potential (EP) is a recording of the electrical activity from sensory nerve pathways to the brain.

A brainstem auditory evoked potential (BAEP) records electrical activity generated from the nerves and part of the brain responsible for hearing.

A trained professional in healthcare science (physiologist) will carry out the EP.

What do I need to do before the BAEP?

- Please bring a list of current medication and take these as normal.
- You may eat and drink as normal.

How long does the BAEP last?

Preparation and recording will take up to 1 hour.

What will happen during the BAEP?

- The physiologist will measure the head and make some small marks on the scalp with a wax type crayon.
- They will then prepare the skin at these marks with a gritty gel.

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- They will attach the electrodes to the scalp and behind the ears with a sticky paste. The recording electrodes are small metal discs.
- The physiologist will stay in the room during the BAEP.
- They will ask questions about your medical history.
- You will be asked to wear headphones and listen to some clicking sounds.
- Responses from your nerves and brain will be recorded on the computer.
- A BAEP is **not** painful and there are no after-effects.

At the end of the BAEP the electrodes will be removed. Any remaining sticky paste will be removed when you next wash the hair. This will **not** hurt.

When will I get the results?

You will not get the results on the day of the BAEP.

Your consultant will be sent a report which they will then discuss with you.

Anything else I need to know?

Please let us know if you will be coming by ambulance. We may need to rearrange the appointment.

Contact details

If you need any more information before you come for the appointment, please call the Neurophysiology Department on **0116 258 5621**

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