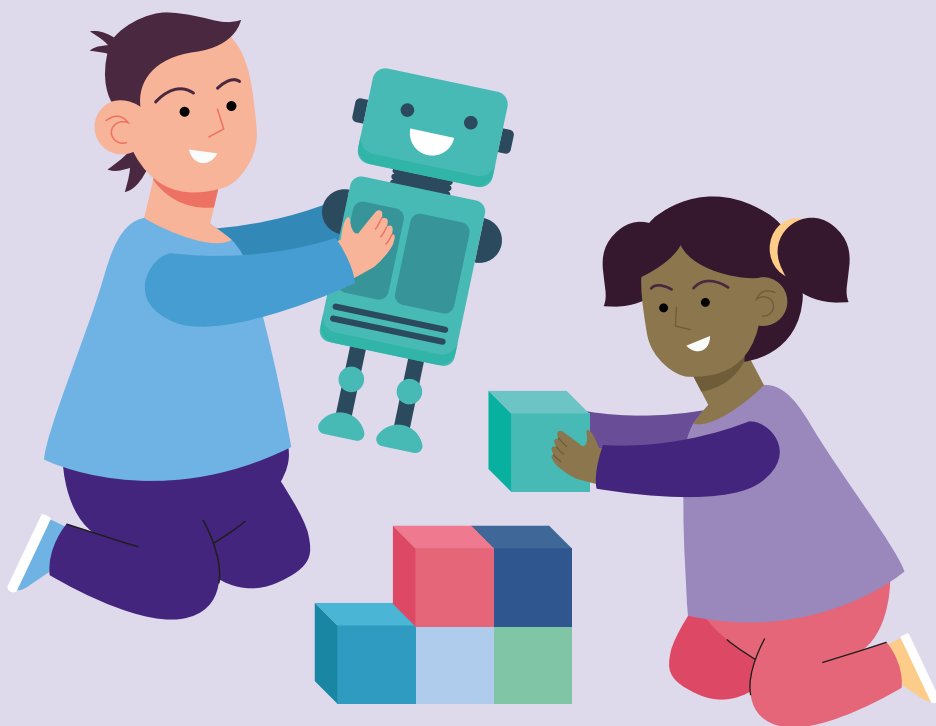


Auditory brainstem response (ABR) test with sedation

Information for patients/parents/guardians/carers



Your child has been referred for an auditory brainstem response (ABR) test with sedation



An auditory brainstem response (ABR) test checks your child's hearing. The test records how your child's brain responds to sounds. It's safe and painless. **The test will take 20 to 40 minutes, and you can stay with your child.**



Preparing for the test

Please follow these instructions before your child's test:

- No food for six hours before the appointment time.
- No breast milk for four hours before the appointment time.
- No water for two hours before the appointment time.



What you need to bring

Your child will be hungry and thirsty when they wake up. There is food and drink available, for example sandwiches, hot water and cold drinks. Please bring food and drink with you if your child has a special diet. You may also want to bring:

- Their favourite toys.
- Videos or films.
- A change of clothes.
- Nappies if relevant.

Please do not bring other children to the appointment.



How long you will be at hospital

Please expect to be at the hospital for most of the day.

Giving your permission (consent)

We want to involve you in decisions about your child's care and treatment. You will be asked to confirm that you are happy for us to do the test. If you would like more information about our consent process, please speak to a member of staff caring for you.

During the test

When you get to your appointment the nurses will take you and your child to a bed space. You will be asked some questions and nurses will do some checks. The doctor will check sedation is safe for your child, and you're happy for your child to have sedation and the test.

Sedation

This is a medicine that is used safely to induce sleep and is less invasive than general anaesthesia. Sedation is usually given orally but may be topped up by a suppository (medicine put into the bottom). It can take up to an hour for the sedation to work and your child may feel restless.

When they are asleep, sensor pads (electrodes) will be put on your child's head. Sounds are then played through earphones to your child. The sensors record how well the sound reaches from the ear to the brainstem.

Side effects

The test is safe and painless. There are no side effects to this testing. The sensors put on your child's head may leave some red marks and make their skin dry, but this will clear after a few hours.

After the test

When the test is finished you may want to wake your child up or let them sleep a bit longer. They will need to eat and drink something and be able to walk steadily before they can go home. This can take some time because your child may be drowsy and unsteady when they wake up.

Getting the test results

You will usually be given the results on the same day as the test. Sometimes it can take longer to get the results. Your clinician will arrange a phone call if this is the case. This does not mean your child has a hearing problem.



Where to go

Please go to Ward 25 which is the children's ward at King's Mill Hospital. The ward is on the second floor (you can use the staircase or lift) in the Women's and Children's department. Please ask for directions at main reception if you are unsure where to go.

Contact details

If you have any questions, please telephone 01623 622515, extension 3036.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

To be completed by the Communications office
Leaflet code: PIL202507-01-ABR
Created: July 2025 / Review Date: July 2027