



### **What is an Auditory Brainstem Response?**

Auditory Brainstem Response or ABR is a test that measures the electrical activity in the brain when your hearing system is stimulated. This test is also known by other names, including “brainstem evoked potentials” and “auditory evoked potentials”. Simply stated, the speed of the nerve signals coming out of the inner ear to the brainstem is measured. These measurements are compared ear to ear.

### **How is the ABR test performed?**

ABR is performed by taping electrodes behind the ears and on the forehead or on the very top of the head. Small, soft inserts that are placed in the patient’s ear produce a clicking sound. These clicks send nerve impulses traveling along the hearing pathway to the brain. Using a computerized “signal” these very small electrical events are enhanced, analyzed and interpreted.

### **Why is ABR performed?**

1. To be certain there is no disturbance in the nerve pathway of hearing to the lower part of the brain.
2. To measure hearing level.

### **How long is the ABR test?**

The entire test takes approximately 30 minutes. It is noninvasive and causes no discomfort. You will simply relax in a reclined chair with your eyes closed, and will probably fall asleep during the test.

**Please give at least 48 hours notice if you must cancel or reschedule your test. There is a \$50.00 fee for any appointment that is canceled or missed without a 48 hour notice.**