

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential (BAEP)

What you need to know

A brainstem auditory evoked potential (BAEP) is a test that checks how well sound travels from your ear to your brainstem. BAEPs are done by a technologist, and the findings are looked at later by a doctor.

What is a BAEP?

A BAEP is a test that checks how sounds travel from your ear to your brainstem. Your brainstem is between the top of your spine and your brain.

How do I prepare?

- Make sure your hair and scalp are clean. Do **not** use hair products such as gel, mousse, hairspray, or conditioner. Do **not** wear earrings.
- You may eat and take your regular medicines before and after the test.
- Wear comfortable clothing.

How does the test work?

- Before your test, a technologist will look in your ears. If needed, the technologist will clean your ear canals with hydrogen peroxide and alcohol.
- The technologist will rub a gel onto certain spots on your head and earlobes and then attach small metal discs (*electrodes*).
- Headphones will be placed over your ears. Your *hearing threshold* will be checked. Your hearing threshold is the lowest sound level you can hear.
- You will lie on a bed in a quiet room.
- Click sounds will be constantly given to 1 ear at a time through the headphones.



A technologist will look in your ears before your BAEP test.

The BAEP usually takes about 1 to 1½ hours. How long it lasts depends on how well you relax during the test.

How do I get my test results?

A *neurophysiologist* (a doctor who specializes in conditions of the nervous system) will send your test results to your doctor who referred you to us. Your own doctor will talk with you about your results.

Where will the test be done?

- Your test will be done in Neurodiagnostics, in the 7-East unit of the hospital. Take the Pacific Tower elevator to the 7th floor.
- Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes before your appointment time and check in at our reception desk.
- If you need to reschedule your test, please call 206.598.4211.

How to Find UWMC

UWMC is at 1959 N.E. Pacific St., Seattle, WA 98195. For driving directions, please ask for our handout “Driving Directions and Parking.” You can also find this handout online at:

https://healthonline.washington.edu/document/health_online/pdf/Driving-Directions-Parking.pdf

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

Neurodiagnostics, 7-East:
206.598.4211