

Potomac Ear, Nose and Throat

What to Expect:

Newborn/Infant (0-6mos) Hearing Exam:

Often necessary when there are parental concerns of hearing loss or the infant referred on the Newborn Hearing Screen



Because the evaluation requires the baby to be asleep.....Prior to the day of testing, you will be instructed to attempt to bring your baby to the appointment sleepy and hungry.

The Audiologist will walk you and your infant to the testing room.

The Audiologist will ask you questions regarding your baby's history (i.e. NHS results, if the infant had an initial screen, or any risk factors for hearing loss) and/or symptoms of concern

We will use an Otoscope to look in your baby's ears

We will perform a short check of how their eardrums are moving by placing a soft tipped probe at the opening of their ear canal. They will hear a low hum sound and feel a short pressure change or vibration/tickle in the ear. There is no pain associated with this test for most patients.

We will perform a Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions (DPOAE) screen with your baby. During this test, the baby can be awake or sleeping, and may suck on a pacifier if necessary. An insert earphone is placed in the ear and soft tones are presented. They do not need to respond during this screen.



We will then escort you and your baby to another room for Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) testing. The ABR is performed to confirm responses from the auditory nerve fall within the normal range of hearing or may be utilized to help obtain estimated hearing thresholds across an average of 3-4 pitches in each ear, while the infant is sleeping.

We will get you comfortable in the room; likely holding your baby. We will use a small alcohol wipe to clean any oils from the forehead and on the mastoid bone behind each ear; we may also use each earlobe, depending on best reading from the electrodes. We will additionally use another hypoallergenic scrub where the electrodes are placed for best reading through the skin. We will place electrode stickers on the high forehead, low forehead and behind each ear or on each earlobe.

Next, we will have you try to get the baby to sleep if they are not already. This may include feeding the baby, turning the room lights low and whatever else is necessary. We usually leave the room for this time.

Once asleep, we can connect the electrode wires and place the earphones in your baby's ears. They will hear a clicking sound in one ear at a time and we will watch and analyze the responses. This portion of the test may take 20-45 minutes as long as the baby is sleeping.

Once testing is complete and we feel we have all the information we need, we will proceed to explain the results of your baby's hearing exam.

If the baby was unable to fall asleep and we could not obtain results or if there is any need for further testing that could not be obtained in the appointment; we will reschedule your baby for their next visit.

Note: Testing may not occur in this exact order given temperament of the baby or if we determine there is possible fluid or obstruction of the hearing pathway.

