



What is the ABR test?

The auditory brainstem response (ABR) is a test used to assess the function of the hearing nerve and auditory pathways within the brain. It is a painless, noninvasive test during which brain wave activity is recorded in response to a series of clicks presented to each ear. Testing is performed while the individual rests quietly in a semi-dark environment. Recorded responses are later analyzed by the audiologist.

How is the ABR test performed?

The ABR test begins with the placement of skin recording electrodes on the earlobes, forehead and possibly scalp. Soft foam tipped earphones are then inserted into each ear. The earphones deliver a series of clicks to each ear. The audiologist will record the responses generated by the hearing nerve and brain in response to the clicking sounds. The individual will relax in a semi-reclined position while the responses are recorded. The test takes approximately one hour.

Revised May 2014