

## **AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE**

Your physician has referred you for a special test called the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR). This procedure may be one of several tests recommended for the evaluation of dizziness, balance problems, hearing loss, ear pressure and/or noises in the ear (tinnitus). The ABR allows us to determine how well electrical impulses are generated by the inner ear and travel to the brainstem. Specifically, the test helps to determine whether or not there is a blockage in the transmission of electrical signals to the brain. Please note that your physician may also order an MRI to further evaluate the auditory pathway, especially if the results of this test are abnormal.

There is no discomfort during this test. You will be placed in a reclined position and instructed to relax as much as possible. The audiologist will place surface electrodes on your forehead and earlobes. A series of clicking noises will be presented through earplugs. These clicking noises are considered to be loud; however, the sound level is safe for your hearing. The electrodes are used to record the electrical response of the ear to sounds as they travel from the ear through the hearing and balance nerve and up the brainstem. You will not be asked to do anything during the test except relax and keep your eyes closed.

**It usually takes about 1 hour to apply the electrodes and perform the test.**

We ask that you not wear makeup on the day of your test. Your forehead and earlobes will be scrubbed and electrodes applied to your skin. Casual, comfortable clothing is recommended, as well as removal of earrings. There are no other special instructions for the ABR, and you may resume your normal activities immediately following the test.

Should you have any questions regarding your test procedure, please contact our office at **(919) 859-4744 x18** and ask to speak with one of the audiologists. This procedure is covered by most insurance companies. Please contact our insurance/billing department if you have any questions about insurance coverage.

A follow-up appointment will be scheduled with the physician to review your results.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, simply call the office to reschedule. **Please note that barring a valid medical or weather related reason, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 “no show” fee for procedures that are cancelled less than 24 hours before their scheduled time.**