

Newborn Hearing Screening Referral Fact Sheet

Why does my baby need more testing?

- There are many reasons why babies do not pass the newborn hearing screen:
 - 1) Your baby may have had fluid in the ear
 - 2) Your baby may have been moving a lot during the screening
 - 3) Your baby may have hearing loss
- More testing is needed because your baby didn't pass the hospital screening or is at risk for hearing loss. It's important to schedule an appointment for this testing now.
- Your baby should be seen by an audiologist who works with newborns and young children. Your baby's primary care doctor can help you choose an audiologist to perform your child's hearing testing.
- Hearing testing is done while your baby is asleep or resting quietly. These tests are safe and do not hurt your baby. There are three tests that are typically performed on your baby which combined could take up to 2 hours. The three tests are:
 - 1) Tympanometry: checks to make sure the eardrum is healthy
 - 2) Otoacoustic Emissions (OAEs): looks for the reaction of the inner ear to tones
 - 3) Auditory Brainstem Response Test (ABR): measures the hearing nerve's response to different sounds
- The result of the testing will be shared with you that day and there are three possible results of this follow-up hearing testing:
 - 1) Your baby does not have a hearing loss
 - 2) Your baby has a hearing loss that may be temporary and treatable. Your baby will be referred to a physician for treatment.
 - 3) Your baby has a permanent hearing loss. Your baby will need ongoing care by specialists trained to work with children who have hearing loss. Your baby should be referred to an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) physician.

Home Preparation

- The most important way to prepare for this appointment is to arrive with a tired and hungry baby. Most babies sleep through the entire test if they are ready for a feeding and a nap. Remember to bring anything that your baby may need: formula, bottle, pacifier, diapers. Once you are in the test room, the Audiologist will allow you time to feed your baby so he/she falls asleep naturally. The testing occurs while the baby sleeps in your arms.

Our location

705 Riley Hospital Drive, 2nd floor Riley Outpatient Center, Audiology/ENT MSA

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