



University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust



Cortical Evoked Response Audiometry (CERA)

Information for patients

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www.uhb.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets.htm

You have been referred for a hearing assessment which will last up to 120 minutes (two hours) and you will be seen by an audiologist.

What is CERA?

CERA is an objective test of hearing. It involves recording the signals in your auditory cortex (the part of the brain that recognises sound) that have been generated in response to sounds introduced into your ears.

When the ear picks up sounds, signals are generated in the cochlea (inner ear) that then travel up the nerve of hearing through the brainstem and then on to the auditory cortex. We can pick up these signals by placing electrodes on the scalp. The signals are then analysed and magnified by a computer and we can look at them on the computer screen. The test can give us information about the level of sound needed to produce a signal, and also to confirm the status of the auditory (hearing) pathway from the ear to the cortex. This is valuable information that we can not obtain from a normal hearing test.

What does the test involve?

First we apply some small electrodes behind your ears and also one on the top of your head. These are then connected via leads to the computer. Before we put the small electrodes on we need to rub the skin underneath with some slightly abrasive cream which helps to ensure that the small electrode and skin has a good contact. This is not painful, but may feel a little rough. A cream is applied to the small electrode before it is placed on the skin.

You will need to sit relaxed and comfortably in an armchair. We will place foam earphones in your ears (if you wear hearing aids, they will need to be taken off at this point).

You need to stay alert throughout the test. You do not need to tell us when you hear any sounds.

Will I hear anything?

You will hear tones through the earphones. Sometimes they will alternate between ears. However the test is done at various loudness levels, so the tones may come and go.

Do I need to bring anything with me?

Yes, because you need to stay alert throughout the test. Please bring something to read, a puzzle book or a hand held computer game as long as the sound can be turned off.

Results

After the test the audiologist will discuss the results with you and if appropriate a report will be sent to your ear, nose and throat (ENT) consultant.

Communication needs

If you require an interpreter at your appointment please telephone **0121 371 4756**
or email **interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk**.

Students

Please note that as this is a teaching hospital, a student may carry out some or all of your appointment under supervision of a qualified audiologist. If you do not wish to have a student present during your appointment please let reception know on your arrival.

Patient transport

If you are eligible for patient transport, please contact West Midlands Ambulance non-emergency Patient Transport Service on **0800 035 6511**. Please note that transport is only available for Monday to Friday appointments.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Audiology Centre

Ground Floor, Nuffield House
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston
Birmingham, B15 2TH

Telephone: 0121 371 7100

Fax: 0121 371 7101

e2text: 07939 988 871

Textphone: 0121 371 7105

Email: Audiology@uhb.nhs.uk

www.uhb.nhs.uk/qehac