

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) Study with Anesthesia

What is a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) study?

A brainstem auditory evoked response (BAER) study is a test to measure how the hearing nerve sends sound to the brain. Having a BAER study does not cause pain or discomfort to your child.

Why does my child need a BAER study with anesthesia?

The BAER study requires a child to be asleep to measure the response of the hearing nerves to sound. For infants, toddlers, and older children who are not able to go to sleep on their own in the office setting, special medicines called **anesthesia** are used to help the child sleep during the BAER study.

Who performs a BAER study?

A BAER study is completed by an audiologist. Phoenix Children's Audiologists are licensed health care professionals who specialize in the science of hearing.

What happens during the BAER study?

When your child is settled in the BAER study suite, a doctor gives the anesthesia and monitors your child while they are asleep. Once your child is asleep:

- Four small areas of skin on your child's head are gently scrubbed. This helps the connectors from the testing device stick to the skin. The spots most often used are two areas on the forehead and one by each ear.
- A sticker is placed on each of the 4 spots. The stickers allow connection wires to measure the response of your child's hearing nerves to sound.
- After the wires are in place, the audiologist puts foam inserts (like earbuds) in each ear. The earbuds send sound to the hearing nerve at different tones and volumes. The responses of your child's hearing nerves to these sounds are recorded.
- It is normal for the 4 areas on the head to be pink after the study is over.

How long will the BAER study take?

The BAER study takes 30 - 90 minutes to complete.

When will I get the results of the BAER study?

The audiologist will give the results of the BAER study to you after the test is over. If a parent or legal guardian is not in the waiting room after the study, the audiologist will call them with the test results within 24 hours.

Now that you have read this:

- Tell your child's audiologist why your child is having a BAER study. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,
call the Phoenix Children's Audiology Department at
602-933-0905

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-933-1400
866-933-6459
www.phoenixchildrens.org
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#3120 • Written by Wendy Steuerwald, Au.D, MS-ELOC