

Monday, 13 April 2015

[Service Development and Screening](#)

AGE APPROPRIATE HEARING ASSESSMENT / DIAGNOSTIC TESTING GUIDANCE Issued by the Regional Newborn Hearing Screening Quality Improvement Group (March 2015)

1 Referral Pathway

Parental or professional concern regarding an infant/young child's hearing may be identified at any time. Where such concern is identified, direct referral should be made, irrespective of newborn hearing screening outcomes and with parental agreement.

- Under 6 months of age → paediatric otolaryngology/ENT
- 6 months up to 3 years → audiology services that provide visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA)
- Over 3 years → audiology services

Distraction testing (devised by health visitors) is not part of the Healthy Child, Healthy Future Programme. Distraction testing should only be carried out as part of a diagnostic audiological assessment in a controlled environment, by appropriately skilled staff.

2 Test Options

- 2.1 [Under 6 months \(corrected gestational age\) \(GA\)](#)
- 2.2 [Auditory Brainstem Response \(ABR\)](#) under natural sleep, especially for younger babies, not an ABR and 1kHz or evoked frequency spread. If there is a hearing loss, some conduction testing should also be performed.

- Where it has not been possible to obtain reliable ABR results, isolation or presentation should be used in line with national clinical guidelines, available at: [http://www.nhs.uk/clinicalguidelines/](#)

- Diagnostic otoscopy/otoscopes (OAE) autometry

- Behavioural testing—Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA) around 7 months if the infant is close to this age. Take into account the urgency of hearing.

- 2.3 [Over 6 months up to 2 years \(corrected gestational age\) \(GA\)](#)

Use ear specific and frequency specific stimuli. A significant hearing loss should be excluded. If ear and frequency specific information cannot be obtained the child should be reviewed to rule out milder degrees of hearing loss.

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Details

Format

A4 PDF

Target group

Health professionals

Downloads

Attachment

Size

[Age Appropriate Hearing Assessment Diagnostic Testing Final 110315_0.pdf](#)

419.92

KB

[Print](#)