

## **Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER)**

A BAER is a recording of the electrical signal of the brain following presentation of an auditory stimulus. We use a set of headphones to deliver a clicking noise to the patient's ears. We record several squiggly lines which represent how fast and how appropriately the signal is travelling from each ear through the brainstem.

BAER's are performed for many reasons, including:

- Hearing loss
- Retrocochlear problems
- Assessing nervous system function

### **Prior to your test**

- If you wear hearing aids, please bring them in working order with you to your appointment.

### **During your test**

- The technologist will ask you questions about why you have been referred.
- We will measure and mark your head with a washable grease pencil.
- We will clean each spot with a special abrasive cleaner to ensure a good contact.
- Surface electrodes are placed on each spot, held on with a special conductive paste.
- You will be seated in a chair wearing a set of headphones.
- Each ear is stimulated individually with the clicking noise, while the other ear hears a white noise, to block external noise and to ensure you don't hear the clicks through your skull.
- Sometimes it is necessary to record subsequent trials at different clicking speeds and/or different intensities.
- It is very important to sit quietly and still during the recording.

### **How long does it take?**

A BAER normally takes about ½ an hour, but is not uncommon to take up to an hour.

### **After your test**

- The electrodes are removed and the paste is cleaned off with warm water and you are free to go home.
- The technologist prepares your recording for the interpreting neurologist.
- A report is typed up and distributed to the appropriate physicians.