

Patient Instructions for Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)

To perform either of these tests on young children and infants, the patient must be very still or asleep in order to achieve successful accurate results. To prepare for this test we ask that the patient be tired or sleep deprived. We suggest this test be scheduled during or around the patient's naptime to assure the patient's ability to fall asleep.

OAE - This test is used to check the response of the outer hair cells in the inner ear. A small probe is placed in the ear and a quiet sound is presented to the ear. A normal inner ear will emit an echo, which can be recorded with a computer. This determines the function of the inner ear. The patient does not need to respond to these sounds. The presence of Otoacoustic Emissions means that the hair cells are functioning and are able to respond to sound in a normal way. This test helps diagnose whether the pathology is in the hair cells or in the hearing nerve. Duration of test varies with the age and patient's ability to remain still and quiet, typically no more than a half hour.

In the event that you have to cancel or reschedule the testing appointment or are running late, please be sure to contact our office as soon as possible.

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