

Otoacoustic emissions (OAEs) procedure

Tasks:

- Perform OAE test on two ears
- Discuss:
 - How findings are related to common abnormalities and results of other tests.
 - How test results are used by Audiologists and ENT Doctors.
 - Common pitfalls associated with test.
 - Importance of otoscopy and usefulness of tympanometry prior to test.

Contraindications:

- obstruction in the ear canal (either fully by wax or by a foreign body).
- external ear
 - infection
 - inflammation
 - tenderness
- recent external ear surgery.

Hygiene:

- wash hands before procedure and change tip for 2nd ear.

Instructions:

- In this test, we are going to check your inner ear function
- I am going to place the tip of the probe on the opening of your ear canal. This shouldn't be uncomfortable. If you feel any discomfort please raise your hand
- You may hear sounds as the probe is in your ear
- Please ensure to sit still and avoid speaking
- Ask the patient the contra-indications

Procedure:

- Ensure environmental conditions are appropriate
 - Minimum ambient noise in the test room and instruct patient to remain calm during the test
- Wash hands
 - Use hygiene gel
- Conduct otoscopy on subject
 - To check for contraindications
- Conduct tympanometry in order to rule out conductive factors prior to OAE testing.
- Position subject and give instructions

- Test first ear:
 - Probe fit check (as smooth as possible)
 - OAE test
- Explore results in terms of
 - Noise conditions (SNR > 6 dB)
 - Stimulus conditions (Tip not hitting the ear canal)
 - Reproducibility (>75%)
- Test second ear
- Interpret results
- Print results
- Record results