

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

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|--|--|
| • Ensure environmental conditions are appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Minimum ambient noise in the test room and instruct patient to remain calm during the test</li></ul> | • Conduct otoscopy on subject <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To check for contraindications</li></ul> |
| • Wash hands <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Use hygiene gel</li></ul>   | • 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