

Audiology Initial Assessment (Hearing Test)

What is the aim of the test?

The aim of the test is to establish if either your hearing is normal, you would benefit from a hearing aid/s or you require an onward referral to an Ear, Nose & Throat Consultant for further investigation and treatment.

Before your appointment:

It is vital that before your appointment you have your ears checked for any wax problems at your GP surgery. If your ears are blocked with wax when you arrive for testing, your appointment may be cancelled and you will be referred back to your GP. This is because wax may prevent a proper examination of your ears and will adversely affect the hearing test results.

During the appointment

The assessment consists of the Audiologist asking you questions about your medical history, enquiring on how your hearing problems are causing you difficulties and then finally examining your ears before testing your hearing.

The test will involve you wearing headphones and listening to a variety of tones – sounding like musical notes. You'll have to indicate when you hear the particular sound, usually by pressing a button. It's very important that you respond to the quietest sound you can hear even if you are not sure. We are able to tell if your response is a valid one or not so you don't need to worry about doing the test incorrectly.

We may also need to carry out a middle ear pressure test on you. This only takes a few minutes, does not hurt and can give us information on your middle ear status.

Your results

Once the test is finished the Audiologist will explain the results to you. The outcome will be either that your hearing is normal, or that you require onward referral to an Ear, Nose & Throat Consultant or that you would benefit from a hearing aid. If a hearing aid is required you have the choice of whether you want this fitted. The Audiologist is there to advise you and take your instructions and he will take the appropriate action depending upon what decision you make.

If you need a hearing aid

If you have been advised that you would benefit from having a hearing aid or aids the Audiologist may choose to fit you with an aid there and then if you are suitable for what is called an open fitting. If not, he will take an impression of your ears so that a customised ear mould can be made for you. This has to be sent away but as soon as it returns we will be in contact with you to make an appointment at your convenience, this is usually within 2 weeks.

At the subsequent appointment we will fit you with your hearing aid, programme it to match your type and degree of hearing loss, and give you full instructions on how to use and control it. Everything we tell you will be written down so that you can go over it again later.

Follow up 6 - 8 weeks

We will arrange a follow up telephone call 6 – 8 weeks later to see how you are progressing and perform any alterations required. However, if you are experiencing difficulties prior to your follow up don't wait. You can call us on 01752 720799.