

## **We are offering hearing tests for your newborn**

### **Why?**

The aim is to discover hearing damage at an early stage in order to be able to then offer support and help to allow good speech development in the child.

Previously it has been tricky to test the hearing of small children. If a child has bad hearing, it is not always easy to discover.

### **Where and when is the hearing test done?**

The hearing test can be conducted a few days after the birth. If the hearing test is not carried out whilst you are still in the maternity ward, or if it needs to be re-done, the child will be given an appointment time at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology or at the Hearing & Balance clinic at Karolinska

University Hospital in either Huddinge or Solna. If you do not have time for the hearing test, please contact the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology to rearrange.

### **What does the test involve?**

The testing method is based on otoacoustic emissions - OAE.

A small plug is inserted into the ear, and contains two channels, a transmitter and a microphone. The transmitter sends a click sound which creates movement in the ear's hair cells. These movements are a low-level sound that is picked up by the microphone. A successful result almost certainly will rule out any hearing impairment significant to speech development.

The hearing test is carried out quickly and is not painful.

### **What if the result isn't what we expected?**

In a number of children, the result is not successful, but the majority of these children nonetheless have normal hearing. The test result may be affected by some

amniotic fluid or foetal fat still remaining in the ear canal. If the result is inconclusive, it will be re-done. In between 1-2 of 1000 newborns, there is some hearing damage discovered. These children are followed up at the Hearing & Balance clinic.

**Be aware** that hearing problems may occur at a later stage, primarily as a consequence of middle-ear catarrh. It is therefore important to be vigilant about the child's hearing and speech development.

### **Further information**

If you would like more details, please visit the Hearing & Balance clinic website at [www.karolinska.se/horsel\(inSwedish\)](http://www.karolinska.se/horsel(inSwedish)) <http://www.karolinska.se/en/Departments/Departments/Hearing-and->

[Balance/\(inEnglish\)](#)

The hearing test for newborns is carried out  
at:



Sophia maternity hospital  
Stockholm maternity hospital  
Danderyd hospital  
Karolinska University Hospital  
Huddinge and Solna  
Stockholm South General Hospital  
(Södersjukhuset)  
Stockholm South General Hospital  
Södra BB maternity unit  
Södertälje hospital



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