



School of Audiology & Speech Sciences

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Dear Potential Participant,

Audiology is a branch of science that is constantly growing. Researchers are always working to find better ways of testing and treating hearing loss and balance disorders. Please consider helping us by volunteering as a normal (control group) participant for a project entitled “Normal Values for Cervical and Ocular Vestibular-Evoked Myogenic Potentials: Comparison of air conducted (AC) and vibratory stimuli (bone conduction-BC).” In order to be eligible for this study, you should have normal hearing with no significant history of noise exposure (leisure or industrial), head trauma, tinnitus/hyperacusis (ringing in the ears or oversensitivity to sound), dizziness, and no significant history of middle ear infection. You must be between 18-29 years of age to participate.

Purpose: the balance system in your ear can be stimulated by loud sounds presented to the ear using an air-conducted signal (like an earphone) and a bone-conducted signal (a vibrator placement on the back of your ear). The loud sound has been shown to result in a measurable electrical response in the neck and eye muscles. In the current study, we investigate the influence of stimulus parameters on the lowest levels to obtain an electric response and the time it will take for each response wave to be produced (latency).

How long will it take? It takes about one and a half hours to complete a clinical hearing test and other measures of middle ear function and vestibular system.

Where should I go? Testing will be completed in the Middle Ear Lab located on the UBC campus in the IRC building.

What would I learn from these tests? You will have a complete hearing and middle-ear check-up as a part of the study. Your balance will also be assessed by VEMP. The results will be explained to you, and in case of detecting any abnormality, a proper referral to a recommended medical specialist will be made to your family physician.

If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with the Middle Ear Lab through email at mel@audiospeech.ubc.ca to set up an appointment.