

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital



Ototoxicity Testing

If you are due to start a treatment that requires use of 'ototoxic' drugs your consultant or specialist nurse will refer you for a hearing assessment. Ototoxic drugs might affect the function of the inner ear hair cells which can result in hearing loss, balance problems and tinnitus. Tinnitus is a term that describes 'buzzing', 'hissing' or 'whistling' noises in the ears that can often signify inner ear damage. The audiology department at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital provides diagnostic assessments and monitoring for ototoxic treatments.

How to prepare

Please ensure that your ears are free of wax before your appointment. Impacted wax may have an effect on the hearing test outcomes. Your GP will be able to check if your ears are clear and remove the wax if necessary. If you wear hearing aids please bring them with you.

Pure Tone Audiometry Testing

This test assesses your hearing sensitivity across a range of frequencies (pitches), which are used in speech. It involves listening to sounds via headphones and responding by pressing a button every time you hear a sound. It usually takes about 20 minutes.



Tympanometry Testing

This is a quick test used to assess your middle ear. It involves placing a small plug in your ears that records your middle ear pressure. It may include listening to some loud noises for a few seconds in order to measure the reflex of the muscles in the middle ear.

Otoacoustic Emissions (OAEs)

Testing assesses your hair cell function in the cochlear (hearing organ in the inner ear). It involves listening to a clicking sound or a combination of two tones for a few minutes. The results are automatically recorded using a computer.



Contact Details

Phone: 01 854 5437
Fax: 01 805 6281

Email: audiology@mater.ie

Please leave a message and we will get back to you. Due to the large number of patients under our care the appointment line is extremely busy so please be patient and keep trying if you do not get through the first time.

Location and Directions

The Audiology Department is located in Outpatients Clinic 8, The Whitty Building. Enter the hospital via the new main entrance on North Circular Road and take the escalator / lift to Level 1 and follow signage for Clinic 8.

Address:

Audiology Department,

Outpatients Clinic 8,

The Whitty Building,

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital,
North Circular Road, Dublin 7.

How can I get referred?

Your consultant or specialist nurse can refer you for an initial assessment. Subsequently you can book follow-up assessments yourself as necessary and if it is indicated. If you feel your hearing is deteriorating or you develop tinnitus you can contact the audiology department directly to arrange an appointment.

Useful Links

Action on Hearing Loss: www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk
DeafHear: www.deafhear.ie
Irish Tinnitus Association: www.iol.ie/~nad/Tinnitus.html
Tinnitus and Hyperacusis: www.tinnitus.org