

What to Expect at Your Audiology Visit – The James

As part of your cancer treatment plan, your doctor may want you to see an **audiologist** to check your hearing. An audiologist is a member of your health care team who tests hearing and ear health.

The audiologist may test your hearing before you start treatment, every few weeks during your treatments, after your treatment is done and into your long-term survivorship. Your first audiology visit will take about 1 hour.

Audiology Tests

Your audiologist may use one or more of the following tests to check your hearing and ear health:

- **Otoscopy** – a visual check of your outer ear, ear canal and ear drum.
- **Tympanometry** – uses air pressure to measure how flexible your ear drum is, the pressure behind your ear drum and the size of your ear canal.
- **Acoustic Reflex Thresholds** – uses loud sounds to measure the health of the nerves in your ears.
- **Pure Tone Audiometry** – measures the quietest sounds you can hear. This test is often done in a quiet sound booth.
 - ▶ **Air-Conduction** – uses headphones to measure the quietest sounds you can hear with your outer, middle and inner ear.
 - ▶ **Bone-Conduction** – uses a headband to measure the quietest sounds you can hear with your inner ear.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

- **Speech Understanding Test** – measures how well you are able to understand words. This test is done with headphones in a quiet sound booth.
 - ▶ **Speech Recognition Threshold (SRT)** – measures the quietest words you are able to understand.
 - ▶ **Word Recognition Score (WRS)** – measures the number of words you are able to understand at a normal speaking volume.
- **Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) Test** – measures the health of the sensory cells in your ear. Sounds are played into your ear and a tiny microphone measures the response of your sensory cells.