



(Central) Auditory Processing Disorder Testing: Commonly Asked Questions

When should a child be referred?

- when the child exhibits a significant number of Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) symptoms
- if there is a parental concern of APD
- if there is a concern from the school of APD
- if there is a concern from the child of APD

Is there a minimum age for testing?

Most of the tests have normative data for age seven years and older. There is significant maturation of the auditory pathways after the age of seven and results can typically be compared with adult normative data by the age of twelve. Testing under the age of seven is currently controversial and if it is done results should be interpreted with considerable care.

How long does the testing take?

Testing takes approximately two hours and includes a history and discussion of results. Breaks are allowed throughout the testing as needed.

If a child has ADD/ADHD and they are on medication should the medication be taken prior to the testing?

Absolutely. Changes in medications can influence the results of the tests.

Should anything be brought to the appointment?

Results of any prior testing should be brought to the appointment including but not limited to reports from the Speech Language Pathologist, school counselor, teacher, psychologist, physician, optometrist, etc.

Is there a difference between hearing loss and APD?

Hearing loss typically refers to the loss of sound perception at the level of the ear. It is often referred to as 'peripheral' hearing loss. Auditory Processing Disorder occurs higher in the auditory system from the level of the auditory nerve to the level of the central auditory nervous system.

What is the difference between "Central" APD and APD?

APD is a broader term describing all processing that includes the auditory nerve up through the brainstem and auditory cortex. "Central" APD refers to higher levels of the auditory system and in particular the auditory cortex. These terms are often used interchangeably.

Can adults be tested for APD?

Adults can be tested for APD. There are many adults who have undiagnosed APD. Adults are often not tested because they have found ways to function with their disorder. Children are more commonly tested because APD can affect the learning process.

Is there a cure for APD?

At this time there is no proven cure, but there are many strategies that can help people function with APD. There are also activities that can be done to help strengthen the auditory pathways. Many children present with a delay in their auditory processing and changes can be monitored over time.

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