



Whispered voice test

1. A simple and accurate test for detecting hearing impairment. It is the only test of hearing that requires no equipment.
2. Stand at arm's length (0.6 m) behind the seated patient (to prevent lip-reading) and whisper a combination of three numbers and letters (for example, 4-K-2) and then ask the patient to repeat the sequence.
3. You should quietly exhale before whispering to ensure as quiet a voice as possible.
4. If the patient responds incorrectly, the test is repeated using a different number/letter combination.
5. The patient is considered to have passed the screening test if they repeat at least three out of a possible six numbers or letters correctly (ie 50% correct).
6. Each ear is tested individually, starting with the ear with better hearing. During testing, the non-test ear is masked by gently occluding the auditory canal with a finger and rubbing the tragus in a circular motion.
7. The other ear is assessed similarly with a different combination of numbers and letters.