

Management of ANSD

You and your baby will meet regularly with a team of different professionals. This team includes your audiologist, a specialist doctor (Paediatrician), a specialist teacher and a speech and language therapist. Through regular assessments and information from you about your baby's responses, the team will be able to offer support and advice about how best to help your baby. Hearing aids may help some babies but not others. The specialist teacher and speech and language therapist will be able to help you choose the best way to communicate with your baby.

Contact information

We understand it is difficult when you cannot get a definite outcome. Our staff are here to support you. If you would like to talk to or see a member of staff, please contact them on the numbers shown below.

Audiology	Name	Phone:
Paediatrician	Name	Phone:
Education service	Name	Phone:

Other Support

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) can give you support and information, and it has a helpline for parents whose children have a hearing loss. Their experienced advisors can help answer any questions you may have.

You can contact the NDCS in the following ways:

E-mail: ndcs@ndcs.org.uk

Website: www.ndcs.org.uk

Interpreter Now: <https://interpreternow.co.uk/ndcs>

Freephone helpline: 0800 800 8880 (v/t)

(other methods of contact also available, see

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-families/helpline/>)



Newborn Hearing Screening Wales
Sgrinio Clyw Babanod Cymru

Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder

Information for parents



Version 3 7/21

Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder

This leaflet is for families of babies who have **auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder (ANSD)**. It should help you to understand more about ANSD and what it means for you and your baby. ANSD used to be called **auditory neuropathy** or **auditory dys-synchrony**.

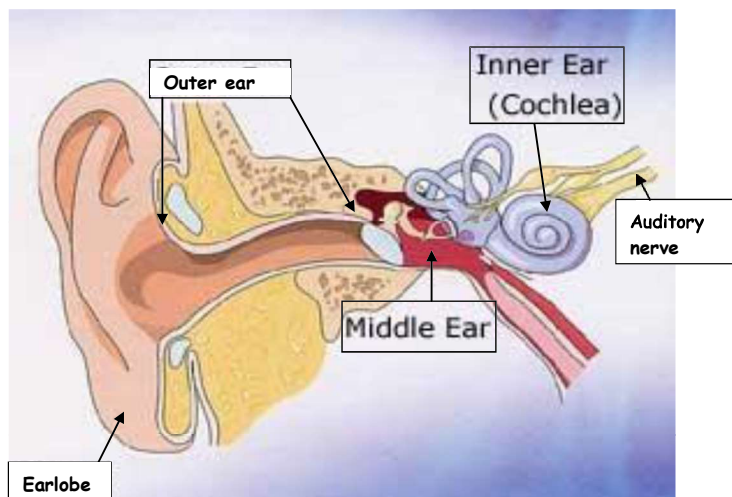
What is a hearing loss?

Usually a hearing loss is described as **conductive** or **sensorineural**.

Conductive hearing loss means that sound cannot pass easily through the outer and middle ear to the inner ear.

Sensorineural hearing loss means that either the **cochlea** in the inner ear, or the hearing nerve (**auditory nerve**), is not working as well as it should be.

Sometimes a mixture of both conductive and sensorineural hearing loss can happen together.



Auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder is the name used to describe a type of hearing problem which stops sound reaching the brain in the normal way. Sound may pass normally through the middle ear and the cochlea, but it does not pass normally from the cochlea to the auditory nerve, or along the auditory nerve to the brain. This means that the sound reaching the brain may not be understood and the quality may be poor. The results of different hearing tests will help the audiologist (hearing specialist) decide if your baby has ANSD.

Testing for ANSD

We can carry out tests that show how well the cochlea and auditory nerve are working, even if your baby is very young. If the tests show the cochlea is working well but the auditory nerve is not working as it should be, then ANSD could be the cause.

In some babies, this pattern of test results can happen if the development of the auditory nerve is delayed. This is often the case with babies who are premature. Nerve pathways continue to develop after the baby is born. Hearing tests carried out in the first year of life will show whether or not this is likely. Your audiologist will continue to give you advice at each appointment.

What does ANSD mean for my baby?

The effect of ANSD will vary from one child to another. It may be difficult for your audiologist to give you an exact level of your baby's hearing. Your baby's responses to sound may be very poor or very good, but sounds reaching the brain may not be clear and may not make sense. As your baby gets older, their hearing may change. Because of this, your baby's hearing will need to be checked regularly.