

Failed whisper test

To do a whisper test, the examiner should briefly explain the test. The clinician should stand at arm's length behind the seated patient (to prevent lip-reading). Each ear is tested individually starting with the better ear. The patient's other ear canal should be occluded with gentle finger pressure on the tragus while rubbing the tragus in a circular motion to mask sound. The examiner should exhale before whispering to limit whisper loudness. A series of three letters and numbers is whispered (e.g. 2 B 8) and the patient asked to repeat them. If all three numbers and letters are repeated correctly the test is passed; if not repeated correctly a second group of (different) numbers and letters is then whispered. Correctly repeating three out of the possible six letters and numbers is deemed a pass. The other ear is then tested in the same way using different letter/number combinations. Patients failing the whisper test require pure tone audiometry.