

INFORMATION FOR VISUAL EVOKED POTENTIAL (VEP) TEST

About your VEP test

A visual evoked potential or VEP is a test used to look for problems in the brain that affect vision. Instrumentation is used which records brain activity related to nerves that make up the visual pathway.

The test involves applying a small number of electrodes to your head using paste. You will be asked to watch a TV screen or flashing light.

Each eye will be tested separately. This will take approximately 45 minutes.

Preparing for your appointment

It is important that your hair is clean and free of hair products.

It would be helpful if you could wash your hair the night before the test and you will probably need to do so again after you return home.

What to bring with you

IF YOU WEAR SPECTACLES, PLEASE BRING THEM WITH YOU.

During the test

The VEP is carried out by a clinical physiologist who will explain each aspect of the test and will be happy to answer any questions.

You will be seated while small silver discs called electrodes are applied to your head with sticky paste.

One of your eyes will be covered with an eye pad. You will be asked to look at a flashing light/red spot on a checkerboard screen that shifts from side to side.

The brain signals are recorded using a computer.

What to expect afterwards

The physiologist will remove the electrodes. This will not hurt as they are easy to remove.

Once the electrodes are removed you are free to leave. Your daily activities will not be affected.

Getting your results/follow-up

The VEP signals are reviewed by the clinical physiologist and the consultant neurophysiologist who prepare a report. This takes about a week.

The report will go back to the doctor that referred you for the VEP prior to your follow up appointment.