

WHAT ARE EVOKED POTENTIALS?

Evoked potentials are a set of tests, which measure impulses travelling through the nervous system.

In order to carry out these investigations, electrodes need to be connected to your head, neck, shoulders and legs, depending upon which tests are being carried out.

The test recommended for you by your consultant will be highlighted/ticked below:

Visual Evoked Potential. (VEP)

Please bring spectacles if you normally wear them.

A visual acuity eye test will be carried out firstly – which entails you reading a wall chart approximately 6 metres away.

5 electrodes will be placed on your head. You will be asked to concentrate on the centre of a television screen that has black/white checks. Each eye will be tested in turn. You may be shown a flashing lamp at the end.

- Time length of test: Between 20 – 45 minutes.

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potentials. (BAEP)

Electrodes are placed behind each ear and one on top of the head. Headphones are placed over the ears and a clicking noise will be heard. Each ear will be tested in turn.

- Time length of test: Between 20 – 30 minutes.

Somatosensory Evoked Potentials. Arms & or Legs. (SSEP)

Arms.

An impulse is passed through the wrist, which will make your thumb twitch. The response will be monitored from the electrodes at your shoulder, neck and head.

Legs.

In the same way as for the arms, an impulse will be passed through your ankle to make your big toe twitch. This response is monitored from your head and leg.

- Time length of test: Between 30 – 60 minutes for arms/legs in total.

A Consultant Neurophysiologist will interpret the recording. The results will be forwarded onto your referring Consultant Physician. ***If you wish to make further enquiries, you may contact a technician directly on (01642) 282755.**