

Visual evoked potential (VEP) test

Purpose of the test

The purpose of the test is to assess the function of your visual pathway. A visual evoked potential (VEP) test measures the electrical signal your visual cortex (a region of your brain) generates in response to visual stimulation, which provides information about the activity of the optic nerve and visual tract.

Preparing for the test

Please ensure your hair is clean and dry, and avoid using hair gel, oil or other hair products. If your work includes welding, wash your hair especially well. Accumulated metallic dust in your hair can cause technical disturbances.

- Take any regular medications as normal. Please bring a list of your medications with you.
- **If you wear glasses (including reading glasses) please bring them with you.**
- Try to have a good night's sleep before the test. If you work in shifts, it is recommended to avoid an evening or a night shift on the day before the test.

Test procedure

To begin the test, the skin on your face and head will be gently cleaned. Small sensors, called electrodes, will be attached to your scalp using a water-soluble paste, and the electrodes will be connected to a recording device.

You will then sit comfortably in a dimly lit room during the test. Each of your eyes will be tested separately, and an eyepatch will be placed over one eye at a time.

You will be asked to focus on a changing checkerboard pattern or a flashing light on a screen. The test is completely painless and will take about an hour to complete.

Once the test is complete, the conductor paste will be gently removed. Some residue may remain, and you may want to wash your hair again when you get home.

A clinical neurophysiologist will review your test results, and a report will be sent to the clinic that requested the test. They will contact you to share the results and let you know if any follow-up appointments are needed.