

Visual Evoked Potentials (VEP)

Information for patients

This leaflet aims to provide information for patients attending for a Visual Evoked Potentials (VEP) test.

What is a Visual Evoked Potential (VEP)?

You have been asked to attend the hospital for a visual evoked potential (VEP).

This is a test to determine the working of the visual pathway from the eye along the optic nerve to the brain. This test is not painful.

What does the test involve?

A clinical physiologist will perform the test. They will explain the procedure to you and take any relevant medical history. Please feel free to ask any questions that you have regarding the test.

Whilst sitting in a chair, small discs will then be applied to your head, using a small amount of sticky paste. This paste is easily removed once the test is completed but you may wish to wash your hair again later.

You will then be asked to focus intently on the centre of a television screen with a moving pattern of black and white squares on it, rather like a chessboard and/or a flashing light.

The room will then be darkened for the duration of the recording.

Each eye will be tested independently for a few minutes at a time while the clinical physiologist records the relevant information.

What preparation is needed?

Please ensure that your hair is clean and free from hair products.

If you are on treatment, please take your medication as normal and at the usual time.

If you wear glasses/contact lenses, please bring them with you.

How long will the test last?

The test takes between 20-60 minutes.

When will I receive the results?

You will not receive the results on the day of the test. A full report will be sent to the consultant/GP who referred you for the test.

What are the side effects of the test?

There are no after effects associated with this test and after the investigation you will be able to go home or to work.

Additional information

Occasionally some people will find the test difficult to tolerate. If you feel that you will struggle with any part of the test, please telephone the department (contact details are at the end of this leaflet). We are happy to accommodate any special arrangements.

Changing or cancelling your appointment

If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.

Public transport and travel information

Bus details available from:

Lothian Buses on **0131 555 6363** or www.lothianbuses.co.uk

Traveline Scotland on **08712002233** or www.travelinescotland.com

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on **03457 484 950** or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Patient transport

Patient Transport will only be made available if you have a medical/clinical need.

Telephone **0300 123 1236** up to 28 days in advance to book, making sure you have your CHI Number ready (this appears on your appointment letter). Calls charged at local rate.

Hard of hearing or speech impaired? Text: **18001-0300 123 1236** (calls charged at local rate). To cancel patient transport, telephone **0800 389 1333** (Freephone 24 hr answer service).

Interpretation and translation

Your GP will inform us of any interpreting requirements you have before you come to hospital and we will provide an appropriate interpreter. If you are having this procedure as an existing in-patient, staff will arrange interpreting support for you in advance of this procedure. This leaflet may be made available in a larger print, Braille or your community language.

Contact Information

Department of Clinical Neurophysiology
Outpatients' Department (OPD) 15

Telephone: **0131 312 1505 / 0131 312 1509**