

Department of Optometry, Oxford Eye Hospital

Vision Related Electrodiagnostic Tests

Information for patients



This leaflet is tells you about the test(s) for which you have been referred. The procedure will be explained again on the day by the clinician doing your test, who will be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

What are these tests?

Visual Evoked Potential (VEP)

This is a test of the pathway between the eye and the vision area at the back of the brain. We will record the electrical signals produced naturally by your brain when looking at a visual stimulus (patterns or lights).

ElectroRetinogram (ERG)

This is a test of the retina (the light sensitive layer) at the back of the eye. We record the electrical signals produced naturally by the retina in response to a flash of light.

Electrooculogram (EOG)

This is also a test of the retina of the eye, but we record the electrical signals produced by the eye when you move your eye from side to side.

Before the test – what preparation is needed?

- Please make sure your hair is clean and free from grease, hair spray and hair gels, etc. We will also need any head coverings to be removed. If you wear makeup this should be removed from around your eyes and forehead. Loose clothing will be most comfortable.
- Please continue to take your normal medication at the usual times and have your meals as you would normally.
- You should bring along any distance, TV or reading glasses you wear. If you normally wear contact lenses, please remove them and wear your glasses instead.
- As your pupils will be dilated for a while after the test, we generally recommend that you do not drive yourself home. We also recommend that you bring a pair of dark glasses to wear after the test, especially on a bright day.
- Part of the test involves sitting in the dark for 20-30 minutes whilst your eyes adapt to the dark, then looking at further flashes of light.

Will I have to wait long?

Please make sure you arrive in good time before your appointment. This will help us make sure we can keep to schedule.

Please let us know if you are unable to keep your appointment so that we can reschedule you as soon as possible. We can then also offer your appointment to another person who is waiting to be seen.

The tests will normally take between 2-3 hours.

Remember to tell the clinician before the start of the test if:

- you have ever had an allergic reaction to tropicamide or proxymetacaine eye drops
- you have previously suffered any allergic skin reactions to sticky plaster or latex
- you suffer from photosensitive epilepsy (flashing lights trigger your seizures) as we may need to adapt the test for your condition.

Will there be any after effects?

- If you are given the tropicamide eye drops you will have blurred vision for several hours after the test, so will not be able to drive yourself home.
- The tropicamide eye drops dilate your pupils, so you should avoid bright light and sunlight after the test until this effect has worn off. Bring a pair of dark glasses to wear when you go outside.
- The eye drops can sting for about 10-15 seconds when they first go into your eye.
- In order to carry out the tests, small discs will be attached to your head and around your eyes, using a special paste (to help the disc to stick) and micropore tape. After the tests the discs will be removed but small amounts of sticky paste will be left in your hair – this will wash out with shampoo.
- There is a very small risk of eye discomfort after the test. If you suffer on-going irritation and/or watering of your eye, please see your family doctor.

Will I get the result the same day?

No – the results of the investigation need to be analysed afterwards. A full report will be sent to the doctor who referred you for the test.

Questions/further information

If you have any questions or concerns about these tests, or need any further information before your appointment, please do not hesitate to contact our staff on:

Tel: **01865 234 740**

You can also talk to us on the day, before the start of your test. The department is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. There is a voicemail service to leave a message if we are unavailable.

If you have a specific requirement,
need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read,
another language, large print, Braille or
audio version, please call **01865 221 473**
or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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Version 2, September 2014
Review: September 2017
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