

# Visual Evoked Potentials (VEPs)

## Information for Parents and Carers

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This leaflet will provide information about attending for a Visual Evoked Potentials (VEP) test.

### **What is a Visual Evoked Potential (VEP)?**

Your child has 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. He/she will explain the procedure to you and your child 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 child's head, using a small amount of sticky paste. This paste is easily removed once the test is completed but you may wish to wash their hair again later.

Depending on your child's age, they 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.

Both eyes will be tested for a few minutes at a time while the clinical physiologist acquires the relevant information. In some instances each eye will be tested independently

### **My child is also attending for an electroretinogram (ERG). What is an ERG?**

An ERG is a test of the retina that is located at the back of the eye. During this test we record the electrode signals produced by the retina in response to the stimulation of both eyes using a flashing light (similar to a VEP).

To record an ERG, small stickers are placed under and to the side of each eye, in addition to small discs on the surface of the head. Like the VEP, this test is not painful.

### **What preparation is needed?**

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

If your child is on treatment, they should take their medication as normal and at the usual time.

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

### **How long will the test last?**

The test takes between 20-60 minutes.

## What are the side effects of the test?

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

## 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 your child for the test.

## Additional Information

Occasionally some children will find the test difficult to tolerate. If you feel that your child will struggle with any aspect of the test, please telephone the department. We are happy to accommodate any special arrangements.

## Keeping 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](http://www.lothianbuses.co.uk)

Traveline Scotland on **08712002233** or [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on **03457 484 950** or [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## Patient Transport

Patient Transport will only be made available if you have a medical/clinical need. Telephone **0300 123 1236** \*calls charged at local rate up to 28 days in advance to book, making sure you have your CHI Number available (this appears on your appointment letter). Hard of hearing or speech impaired? Use text relay: **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  
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People  
50 Little France Crescent  
Edinburgh, EH16 4TJ  
Telephone: **0131 312 1506**