

# **EVOKED POTENTIAL TEST INSTRUCTIONS**

*Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the time of your test.*

*Please read all instructions thoroughly and refer to your order for the test for which you are scheduled.*

## **Evoked Potential studies evaluate disorders of the sensory pathways of the nervous system.**

Evoked Potential Tests show how well the body's electrical signals travel through the sensory pathways of the nervous system, in response to a specific external stimulus. Brief electrical stimulations are applied and hundreds of responses are received, amplified and averaged by a special computer. Electrodes are placed on your scalp with a sticky conductive paste. The final averaged response is plotted on a graph in the form of a wave or waves, which are evaluated by the neurologist.

### **PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL EVOKED POTENTIAL TESTS:**

1. **HAIR:** Hair should be clean and thoroughly dry. **NO HAIR PRODUCTS SHOULD BE USED** (hairspray, oil, gel, etc.) **NO WEAVES, BRAIDS, HAIR EXTENSIONS, CORN ROWS, OR ATTACHED TOUPEES** (*this may cause your test to be rescheduled.*)
2. **LOTION:** Please do not use body lotion or powder on the day of the test.
3. **MEDICATION:** You should continue taking your normal medications.

### **VER (VISUAL EVOKED RESPONSE)** *Allow 30 minutes*

Visual Evoked Responses evaluate the visual nervous system. Five electrodes are attached to the scalp. The patient will focus on a checkerboard pattern on a computer monitor. The checkerboard pattern is the stimulus and the recording is made through the scalp electrodes. **IF YOU WEAR GLASSES OR CONTACT LENSES, YOU NEED TO WEAR THEM DURING THE TEST.**

### **BAER (BRAINSTEM AUDITORY EVOKED RESPONSE)** *Allow one hour*

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Responses evaluate the auditory nervous system including the brainstem. Two electrodes are attached to the scalp, and one on each ear lobe. Earphones are then placed over the ears and a series of clicking sounds are delivered to each ear separately. The clicking sound is the stimulus and the recording is made through the scalp electrodes.

### **SSEP (SOMATOSENSORY EVOKED POTENTIAL)**

Somatosensory Evoked Potentials evaluate the nerve pathways from the peripheral nerves through the spine to the somatosensory region of the brain (somato-body, sensory-reception). Electrodes are attached to the scalp as well as various points along the nerve pathway from arm or leg to the brain. A small electrical current is applied to the skin over a nerve on the arms or legs and the recording is made through the attached electrodes.

#### **A. SSEP-arms (MEDIAN/ULNAR NERVE SOMATOSENSORY EVOKED POTENTIAL)** *Allow one hour*

Electrodes will be placed on the shoulders near the neck area, on the back of the neck, and head. Please wear an open-necked top with short sleeves. **DO NOT** use body lotion on your arms or neck.

#### **B. SSEP-legs (POSTERIOR TIBIAL SOMATOSENSORY EVOKED POTENTIAL)** *Allow one hour*

Electrodes will be attached to your legs, back and head. Please bring shorts/skirt to wear during testing. **DO NOT** use body lotion on your legs or back.

### **AUDIOGRAM:** *Allow 30 minutes*

No preparation required. Routine hearing test.

**Please do not bring children to testing appointments.**

**A \$100.00 fee is charged for all appointments missed or not cancelled 48 hours in advance.**