

EVOKED POTENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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. Please read all instructions thoroughly.

Please call 703-876-0800 for our answering service and ask to be connected to the office if you have an 8:00 a.m. appointment and you are running late or are unable to keep your appointment on the day of the test.

Patient instructions:

- **Arrival:**
 - Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the time of your test.
 - Allow 1 hour for your test. For Audiogram, allow 30 minutes.
- **Hair care:**
 - **Wash and dry your hair thoroughly on the day of the test.** Do not use any hair products (hairspray, oils, gel, masks, conditioners, lotions, etc.) because they may impact the quality of the test.
 - NO Dreadlocks, hair extensions, cornrows, weaves, attached toupees or other attached hair pieces, as they can interfere with proper electrode placement on the scalp. Failure to comply may result in your appointment being rescheduled.
- **Body Lotions:**
 - Please do not use any body lotion or body powders on the day of the test.
- **Medications:**
 - Please take all your medications unless otherwise instructed by your physician.
- **Illness:**
 - If you are coughing or sneezing in excess due to illness and/or allergies, please reschedule your appointment, as this impacts the quality of the test.
- **Clothes:**
 - Wear a shirt with a loose opening at the neck and short sleeve. No turtlenecks.
 - Wear loose shorts or a skirt.
- Please allow 10 business days for the results of this test to be available to your doctor.
- Please do not bring children to testing appointments.
- Please do not bring food or drink to your testing appointment.

BAER (BRAINSTEM AUDITORY EVOKED RESPONSE)

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.

SSEP-arms (MEDIAN/ULNAR NERVE SOMATOSENSORY EVOKED POTENTIAL)

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.

SSEP-legs (POSTERIOR TIBIAL SOMATOSENSORY EVOKED POTENTIAL)

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.

If your insurance company requires an insurance referral be sure you have obtained this prior to the time of your appointment.

A \$100 fee is charged for all appointments that are missed or not cancelled 48 hours in advance.