

Long Island Neurology Consultants

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Evoked Potentials Information

Our office performs four different Evoked Potential (EP) examinations. Testing is performed by a trained technician. Each test may take about 20 minutes. Often, several EP's are scheduled during a session.

Visual Evoked Potential (VEP or VER for visual evoked response):

This test evaluates the visual portion of the nervous system from the eyes to the occipital (visual) portion of the brain. Electrodes are pasted to the scalp, and the patient stares at a checkerboard pattern on a video screen. Each eye is tested separately.

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential (BAEP or BAER for brainstem auditory evoked response):

This test evaluates the auditory portion of the nervous system from the ears through the brainstem and the auditory portion of the brain. Electrodes are pasted to the scalp, and the patient wears headphones which deliver a series of clicks and tones to each ear separately. This is NOT the same as a hearing test (or audiogram), and it provides different information.

Somatosensory Evoked Potentials (SSEP):

There are two different forms of the examination to assess either the upper extremities or the lower extremities. Both tests assess pathways from the limb through the spinal cord and to the brain. Electrodes are pasted to the skin and scalp. While the patient remains in a relaxed position, a small electrical current is applied to the skin, creating a tingling sensation.

PREPARATION FOR THESE PROCEDURES:

- There are no dietary, medication, or driving restrictions.
- Please wash your hair, face, scalp, and limbs before the test.
- Please avoid any hair and scalp products such as creams, sprays, gels, mousse, lotions, and sunscreen.
- Please do not apply any creams, lotions, or oils to your skin.
- Please bring your eyeglasses or hearing aids with you.
- Please bring a hair tie for mid to long hair.
- You may be asked to remove any clothing, jewelry, hairpins, hair pieces, extensions, or other metal objects that may interfere with the procedure.
- If you are asked to remove clothing, you will be given a gown to wear.
- You have the option to wear a comfortable loose T-shirt and loose pants that you are able to roll up to your shoulders and knees.
- Once the test is complete, the technician will remove the electrodes and wash off the electrode paste. In some cases, you may need to rewash your hair again at home.
- During the procedure, the patient will be in a room alone with the technologist. All your personal belongings will remain with you in the room. All other caretakers or accompanying persons will remain outside. Please make arrangements for child care.