



Manchester Royal Infirmary

Visual Evoked Potential (VEP)

Neurophysiology Department
0161 276 4564



What Is A VEP?

- VEP stands for Visual Evoked Potential.
- A VEP is a way of testing the nerve that runs between the eyes and the back of the brain.
- The test is performed on people of all ages and is very safe.

Why Do I Need A VEP?

People are referred for VEPs for a variety of reasons. Most often a VEP is used in the investigation of eye or vision problems.

VEPS may also be used if you have any weakness or odd feelings elsewhere in your body as they are a sensitive test of the function of the nervous system as a whole.

The VEP Test

Before the VEP

No special preparation is needed before the VEP; you should take any medication as prescribed and eat and drink as normal. It is helpful however, if you can come with clean hair that is free from styling products.

Glasses and contact lenses

If you wear glasses or contact lenses then you should bring them with you as you may need to wear them during the test.

During the VEP

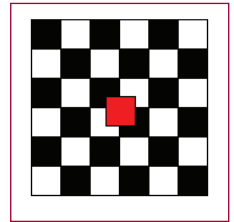
- The VEP will be performed by a Clinical Physiologist and will take around 45 minutes. During the test you will be sitting in a comfortable chair in a quiet room.
- Firstly, you will be asked some questions about your medical history (mainly about your symptoms and medication) and the test will be explained fully. You will also have chance to ask any questions that you have.
- You will then have a brief eye test for which you will be asked to read letters on a chart, like the one shown here, out loud.



- Next, your head will be measured and seven small metal disks called electrodes (see picture) will be placed at specific points using a special type of paste. This process will take around 10 minutes.



- Once the electrodes have been applied, you will be asked to sit comfortably and a patch will be placed over one eye.
- You will be asked to relax and look at the centre of a checkerboard that shows moving black and white squares (see picture).
- One run of the test involves looking at the board for two minutes and there will be several runs on each eye, each following the same procedure.



After The VEP

At the end of the VEP all of the electrodes will be removed and your head cleaned. Because of the paste used your hair may feel a little sticky until it is washed properly. There are no side effects or after effects from the VEP and you can go home and carry on with school or work as usual.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I get the results straight away?

No. It takes some time to review your VEP and this is done by a Consultant Neurophysiologist. A report of the findings will be written and sent to the doctor who referred you. This doctor will then contact you with a follow up appointment and discuss the results with you there.

Will I feel anything?

You will feel the skin being rubbed with a cotton bud before the electrodes are put on your head, but otherwise, you will not feel anything.

Do I have to cut my hair?

No. VEPs can be done on people with long hair or short hair and there is no need to cut your hair beforehand. You should, however, have clean hair on the day of the test and try not to use styling products.

Why do I have to come to Manchester Royal Infirmary for the test?

VEP testing is not available at all hospitals, therefore though you may have originally seen a doctor at another hospital you have been referred to Manchester Royal Infirmary for this test. The results will be sent back to the doctor that originally referred you.

Further Information About VEPs

The department is open Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 5.00pm. If you require further information about VEPs or neurophysiology then feel free to call us on **0161 276 4386** or **0161 276 4564**. Alternatively you could consult:

Hospital website: www.cmft.nhs.uk

NHS direct website: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Getting to the Neurophysiology Department

The Neurophysiology Department is located on the **Ground Floor** in the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

The closest entrance to the department is **MRI Entrance 2** located on the hospital Boulevard.

There are two multi-storey car parks at the hospital (Hathersage Road and Grafton Street). You should allow 10 to 15 minutes to get from the car parks to the Neurophysiology department.

Parking for patients who require access to Drop-off areas (30 minutes maximum) is also available. These areas are barrier controlled and accessed from the Hathersage Road entrance, which is signed "Access for Drop-off and Blue Badge Holders only".

If you require ambulance transport to the hospital then you should arrange this with your GP as soon as you know your appointment date.

Zero Tolerance Policy

We are committed to the well-being and safety of our patients and of our staff. Please treat other patients and staff with the courtesy and respect that you expect to receive. Verbal abuse, harassment and physical violence are unacceptable and will lead to prosecutions.

Smoking

Smoking is only permitted within the external designated smoking areas. You may be putting others at risk if you smoke in non-designated areas. The Manchester Stop Smoking Service can be contacted on Tel: (0161) 205 5998 (www.stopsmokingmanchester.co.uk).

Suggestions, Concerns and Complaints

If you wish to make a comment, have a concern or want to complain, it is best in the first instance to speak to the manager of the ward or department involved.

The Trust has a Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). Who can be contacted on (0161) 276 8686 and via e-mail: pals@cmft.nhs.uk. They will help you if you have a concern, want advice, or wish to make a comment or complaint.

Information leaflets about the service are readily available throughout the Trust. Please ask any member of staff for a copy.

No Smoking Policy

Please protect our patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted in any of our hospital buildings or grounds, except in the dedicated smoking shelters in the grounds of our Central Manchester site.

For advice and support on how to give up smoking, go to <http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>.

Translation and Interpretation Service

It is our policy that family, relatives or friends cannot interpret for patients. Should you require an interpreter ask a member of staff to arrange it for you.

تتص سیاستنا علی عدم السماح لافراد عائلة المرضى او اقاربهم او اصدقائهم بالترجمة لهم. اذا احتجت الى مترجم فيرجى ان تطلب ذلك من احد العاملين ليرتب لك ذلك.

ہماری یہ پالیسی ہے کہ خاندان ، رشتہ دار اور دوست مریضوں کے لئے ترجمہ نہیں کرسکتے۔ اگر آپ کو مترجم کی ضرورت ہے تو عملے کے کسی رکن سے کہیں کہ وہ آپ کے لئے اس کا بندوبست کر دے۔

ইহা আমাদের নীতি যে, একজন রোগীর জন্য তার পরিবারের সদস্য, আত্মীয় বা কোন বন্ধু অনুবাদক হতে পারবেন না। আপনার একজন অনুবাদকের প্রয়োজন হলে তা একজন কর্মচারীকে জানান অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য।

Nasze zasady nie pozwalają na korzystanie z pomocy członków rodzin pacjentów, ich przyjaciół lub ich krewnych jako tłumaczy. Jeśli potrzebują Państwo tłumacza, prosimy o kontakt z członkiem personelu, który zorganizuje go dla Państwa.

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我们的方针是，家属，亲戚和朋友不能为病人做口译。如果您需要口译员，请叫员工给您安排。



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