

## Visual Evoked Potentials (VEPs)

A stimulus in any sensory modality, whether visual, auditory, or somatosensory, produces a change in the Electroencephalogram (EEG). Evoked potentials can be utilized to test the integrity of a pathway in the brain. Visual evoked potentials (VEPs) are ordinarily obtained by repetitively alternating the black and white squares of a checkerboard. The most common current use of evoked potentials is to test the speed of conduction in a particular pathway. Each eye is stimulated individually and responses are measured from the occipital area or back of the scalp.

The test takes about an hour and you should bring your glasses if you use them. The test takes place in a specially equipped room containing a reclining chair and the testing equipment. During the test electrodes will be placed on the back of your scalp so it is best to avoid hair gels or sprays. You will be asked to look at a checkerboard pattern as the dark and light checks change places for several minutes at a time. This will be repeated under various conditions.

There are no side effects to the test, except for a slightly messy hair-do! Continue to take your regular medication prior to the study unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.