

**Patient
Information**

Nerve Conduction Studies / Evoked Potential tests

Introduction

The aim of this leaflet is to give you a brief understanding of nerve conduction study (NCS) and evoked potential (EP) tests.

There are several different tests carried out in the Neurophysiology Department. They are all designed to record measurements of brain/nerve/muscle electrical activity. The results of the tests will be returned to the doctor or specialist who asked for the tests to be performed.

The test you will be having will be shown on your appointment letter.

If you are taking any medications please continue to do so unless your doctor informs you otherwise.

Preparing for your test

On the day of your test, please make sure that your arms and legs are free from lotions, oils and creams, as this can interfere with the quality of the readings.

Ideally you should wear loose clothing to the appointment.

Nerve conduction studies (NCS)

This is a test of how well certain nerves in the arms or legs are working.

Small electrical pulses are used to stimulate the nerves. This will feel like a tapping sensation or beating pulse.

Appointments will last from 30 to 60 minutes. This test is harmless and there are no side effects.

If you are fitted with an ICD or pacemaker, please inform the department before attending.

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Department

Neurophysiology

Review due

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Evoked potential tests (EP)

This test records how the brain responds to certain stimulation. For somatosensory evoked potential test (SSEP), small electrical pulses are used to stimulate the nerve at the wrist or ankle. Responses are recorded using small electrodes on the scalp and/or the shoulder or spine.

In a visual evoked potential (VEP) test, a chequer board screen is used to stimulate the visual pathway. Measurements are recorded using small electrodes on the scalp. Each test lasts about 30 to 60 minutes.

If you wear glasses please bring these with you.

Contact information

If you would like any further information or have concerns about your tests please call the Neurophysiology Department to discuss.

Neurophysiology Department

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 6818

Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm

For more information about the department and the tests carried out please visit:

Website: www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/our-services/services-we-offer/neurophysiology

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