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Evoked Potentials

Your doctor may order any or all of these test to check the signals your brain and spinal cord (parts of your nervous system) receive from other parts of your body. The signals are responses to what you see, hear, or feel during the tests. These tests are also used to investigate for vision and hearing problems. These tests are non-invasive procedures.

Visual Evoked Potential (VER)

You will sit a few feet from a screen. The technologist will attach small metal disks (electrodes) to your scalp, using water-based gel or paste. Testing each eye separately with a patch over one eye, you will watch a reversal checkerboard pattern on the screen. The electrodes measure the signals traveling from the eye to the brain. If you wear contacts or eye glasses, please have them with you. Test time is approx. 1 hour

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential (BAER)

The technologist will attach electrodes to your head and behind your ears with water-based gel or paste. Wearing headphones, you will hear clicking sounds or tones to the testing ear (each ear tested separately). The electrodes measure the signals traveling from the ear to the brain. Test Time is approx. 1 hour

Somatosensory Evoked Potential (SER)

Electrodes will be placed on various parts of your body; such as your head, spine, arms, or legs. The technologist will apply mild electrical current to the nerves in your wrists or ankles. You may feel your muscles twitch. The electrodes measure the electrical signals traveling from the skin, through the spine to the brain. For the lower SSER, your doctor may prescribe Valium to be taken at time of test. Bring the Valium to the office and the technician will let you know when to take it. You will need to have transportation home after testing due to the Valium. Test Time: 1 hour for upper extremity SSER, 1 1/2 hours for lower extremity SSER

TESTING PREPARATION:

- 1. Clean and dry hair with no hairstyling products.
- 2. Your skin should be free of excessive oil.
- 3. Bring or wear any eyeglasses or contact lenses you use.