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You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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Your Evoked Potential Appointment *(page 1 of 2)*

We have been asked to arrange some special nerve conduction tests for you. These are tests and not treatment. They can last up to 1½ hours.

If you have any questions please talk to the technician before the start of your test.

What are Evoked Potentials?

These are recordings of electrical signals produced naturally by the brain following repeated stimulation of the eyes, ears or arms and legs.

A technician starts by making measurements of your head, and marking specific points. After gently rubbing over the marks, small metal discs are attached using a sticky paste. After the test the discs are removed and any paste left in the hair can be washed out with shampoo at home.

What are the Visual Evoked Potentials (VEPs)?

These are tests of the pathway between the eye and the back of the brain. You will be asked to look at the centre of a television screen that has a moving black and white chequer board pattern. Each eye is tested separately, with a patch covering the eye not being investigated. This is a painless procedure and there are no after effects.

What are Somatosensory Evoked Potentials (SEPs)?

These are tests of the neural pathways from the arm or leg through the spinal cord to the brain. An electrical stimulator is used to pass brief electrical currents to your nerves. This causes an unusual pricking sensation and there may be small, uncontrollable twitches of your hands and feet. This can be uncomfortable but should not be painful. There are no after effects.

We will need to have easy access to attach discs to your feet in this part of the test, so please wear either socks or knee high tights which can be removed more easily than tights.

What are Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potentials (BAEPs)?

These test the neural pathways from the ears. A pair of headphones is used to give a clicking sound in one ear at a time and a continuous noise to the other ear. This is a painless test and there are no after effects.

Department of Clinical Neurophysiology

 **01722 336262 Ext 2432**

How to prepare for your appointment

- if you wear spectacles for either reading or long distance, please bring them with you.
- please ensure that your hair is clean and free from grease, hair-spray and lacquers.
- please do not use moisturisers and body lotions on legs and neck before the test.
- loose clothing will be most comfortable.
- you may wear jewellery but it may have to be removed if it gets in the way.
- you may want to bring a comb or brush to tidy your hair after the test.

Please inform the technician if you have an inserted defibrillator or pacemaker.

When will I get my results?

The recordings are analysed by a Consultant Neurophysiologist and a report is sent to the GP or Consultant who referred you. The result is not available to you on the day of the test.