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Sensory Evoked Potentials (SEPs)

This leaflet is designed to give you some information about the investigation for which you have been referred. Your doctor may have already explained what an SEP involves, but you will

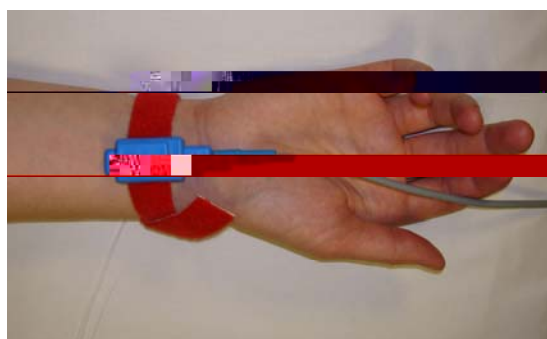
We shall place a few small discs onto your head, shoulder, neck, back or back of your knee. These are held in place with a sticky, water-soluble paste that can be easily removed after the investigation. For the detection of good responses, the skin first has to be rubbed with some gritty paste. During this part of the procedure the clinical physiologist may ask you questions about your symptoms and medical history



Please inform the clinical physiologist, or plaster tape before the procedure.

if you have any allergies to latex

You will then be asked to lie comfortably on a couch or sit in a chair and two sticky electrodes will be placed either on your wrist or on your ankle. Then small electrical pulses will be applied to provoke a small twitch of either your thumb or of your big toe. During this part of the test it is really important for you to be as relaxed as you can.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SEPs are non-invasive and there is no risk of side effects unless you have an implanted medical device. If you carry a pacemaker or a cardiac defibrillator we will take certain precautions. Even then the risk is very small and with proper precautions malfunction of these devices has not been reported.

AFTER THE INVESTIGATION

When the investigation is complete, the discs are removed. SEPs do not have any persistent side effects. You will be able to return to your normal activities immediately after the investigation although there may be some small amount of paste left in your hair, which will wash away with shampoo.

RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The results of the test will be sent to the referring consultant within a couple of days as the recorded traces need to be analysed by a physician. It is generally best that the results of the neurophysiological investigation are discussed with your consultant, because the interpretation may depend on the results of other tests.