

Useful websites

www.nhs.uk

www.northamptongeneral.nhs.uk

Other information

Northampton General Hospital operates a smoke-free policy. This means that smoking is not allowed anywhere on the Trust site, this includes all buildings, grounds and car parks.

Leaflets, information, advice and support on giving up smoking and on nicotine replacement therapy are available from the local Stop Smoking helpline on 0845 6013116, the free national helpline on 0800 0224332, email: smokefree@nhft.nhs.uk and pharmacies.

Car parking at Northampton General Hospital is extremely limited and it is essential to arrive early, allowing ample time for parking. You may find it more convenient to be dropped off and collected.

This information can be provided in other languages and formats upon request including Braille, audio cassette and CD. Please contact (01604) 544516 or the Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) on (01604) 545784, email: pals@ngh.nhs.uk



About your Evoked Potential test

Northampton 
General Hospital
NHS Trust

Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Cliftonville, Northampton NN1 5BD.

www.northamptongeneral.nhs.uk

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We hope the following information is helpful to you.

If you need any further information please ring us on 01604 545724 Monday to Thursday 8.30am-4.30pm and 8.30am-3.00pm on Friday.

What is an Evoked Potential test?

An EP (Evoked Potential) test is a simple recording of the tiny electrical signals generated by your brain in response to sight, sound, or touch. Changes in these signals may help your Doctor in the diagnosis and management of your symptoms.

We will explain everything before starting the test and answer any questions you may have.

You will be in the Department for about 45 minutes.

Small discs are placed on your head with sticky paste. You will be asked to sit on a chair whilst the signals are recorded.

The Visual Evoked Potential test can be used to diagnose problems with the optic nerve or may be used as part of your general tests to help with your diagnosis. You will be asked to cover one eye at a time and look at a checkerboard pattern that flashes for about 2 minutes while the responses in your brain are recorded.

The Sensory Evoked Potential test might be used if you have been feeling numbness/weakness in your arms or legs. We use small electrical signals to test nerve function at the wrist or ankle. You may find this slightly uncomfortable but it does not last long and most people tolerate it well.

What do I need to do before the test?

Your hair must be clean and free from gel or spray. It may not be possible to do your test if you are wearing hair extensions.

Check your hair for head lice and apply treatment 2-3 days before the test if necessary. It may not be possible to do the test if head lice are present.

If you wear glasses, please bring them with you for the test.

Please wear loose clothing that allows access to your hands and feet.

Take your medication as usual and bring a list of your medication with you.

If you have any additional needs, including access due to disability or need an Interpreter, please contact us as soon as possible.

Will there be any after effects?

There are no after effects from this test. We will remove as much of the sticky paste as we can with warm water but your hair will need to be washed when you get home.

What will happen after the test?

The test is reviewed after you have been seen and the results will be sent to the referring Doctor so they will not be available immediately.