



## Visual Evoked Potential (VEP)

VEP is a painless test to help the doctor determine how your eyes communicate with your brain in a way no other instrument or vision test can.

### How does it do this?

VEP directly measures the electrical activity in the vision system. When light from an image enters our eye, it is converted into electricity at the retina and travels through the optic nerve and other pathways to the part of our brain that processes vision, the visual cortex. **We will be measuring the strength of the signal reaching your visual cortex and how fast it gets there.**

### What you should do to prepare for the test

In order to efficiently complete this test, it is best for the patients

- **Hair must be clean, dry** (Three sensory pads will be placed on the head)
  - Free of gels, spray, or oils
- **Please refrain from applying any make-up, face lotion, sunscreen, etc**
- For young children, it may be helpful to bring a favorite item such as a blanket or toy to make them more comfortable during the test.
- Please inform the tech if you have been diagnosed with any seizure disorders as you may experience “flashing lights” during the test

### How is the test done?

After the three sensory pads are placed on the head, a technician will start the test. You will see a series of black and white patterns that appear to “flip” quickly over and over again on a computer screen. It is simply a matter of looking at the pattern for 10 to 60 seconds for each recording. **The entire testing time will vary depending on the tests ordered by the doctor, but please allow at least an hour for completion.**

Please don't hesitate to call the office at 703-680-4323 with any questions or concerns!