

# Visual Evoked Potentials (VEPs)

An information guide



# Visual Evoked Potentials (VEPs)

## What is a VEP?

A VEP is a test that checks the speed of nerve messages between the eye and the brain. These investigations are usually carried out to diagnose disorders of the eye or the brain.

## Which hospital do I need to go to?

The test will be carried out at **North Manchester General Hospital**, Delaunays Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 5RB

## Why do I have to come to North Manchester General Hospital?

VEP testing is not available at the other hospital sites within Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, therefore although you may have originally seen a doctor at another hospital you have been referred to **North Manchester General Hospital**.

## What preparation is needed?

Please ensure your hair is clean, dry and free from any hair products. Take your medication as normal unless otherwise directed by your doctor. Eat as normal. Please bring your glasses or contact lenses with you.

## Can I bring anyone with me?

Yes, but they will not be allowed in the room where the test is being undertaken, therefore please do not bring anyone with you who needs supervision, i.e young children / babies.

## What does the test involve?

First you will be asked to read an eye chart to check your eyesight. A clinical physiologist will then measure your head and small discs (electrodes) will be applied to your scalp. These electrodes are held in place by a sticky paste. During this part of the procedure the clinical physiologist may ask you questions about your symptoms

and medical history. You will be seated in a chair in front of a television screen. Each eye is tested separately. An eye patch will be used to cover the eye that is not being tested. You will be asked to concentrate in the middle of a check pattern whilst the room will be in darkness. The test takes about 20 to 30 minutes.

### **What are the risks?**

There are no known associated risks with this procedure.

### **Are there any side effects?**

Side effects from VEP testing are very rare. Very occasionally some minor skin irritation from the electrodes may occur.

### **What happens after the test?**

The electrodes will be removed, you will then be able to return home or to work immediately after the test although there may be a small amount of paste left in your hair, which will wash away with shampoo. There are no restrictions to driving, so you can drive as normal after the test.

### **When will I get the results?**

The results will be analysed by a Consultant Neurophysiologist and a written report will be sent to the referring doctor within a couple of weeks.

### **Contacting us**

If you have any questions or concerns about the procedure, please contact the department on 0161 720 2780.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.pat.nhs.uk/patientinformation](http://www.pat.nhs.uk/patientinformation) leaflets

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

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**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

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The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

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