

## Electroretinogram (ERG)

An ERG is a recording of the electrical signal of the retina in your eye following presentation of a stimulus; we use various intensities of bright flashes of light.

We record several squiggly lines which represent how fast and how appropriately the signal is travelling from each eye to the brain.

ERG's are performed for many reasons, including:

- Assessment of retinal function
- Neurologic diseases
- Trauma

### Prior to your test

- Do not wear any makeup
- Bring/wear your glasses or contact lenses if you need them.
- Bring contact lens solutions as they will be removed for part of your test.

### During your test

- The technologist will ask you questions about why you have been referred.
- We will clean the electrode sites on your skin with a special abrasive cleaner to ensure a good contact.
- Surface electrodes are placed on each spot, held on with a special conductive paste.
- We will put drops in your eyes to dilate your pupils and then let you rest in a dark room for 25 minutes while they dilate.
- We then put in numbing drops and apply special electrodes to the surface of your eye, which you will not feel or see.
- You will be seated in a chair in front of the stimulator with the light in it.
- We will take you through a variety of flashes and record several types of responses.
- It is frequently required to repeat parts of the test due to blinking artifact.
- It is very important to be attentive and sit quietly and relaxed during the recording.

### How long does it take?

An ERG normally takes anywhere from 1-2 hours.

### After your test

- The electrodes are removed and the paste is cleaned off with warm water and you are free to go home.
- The technologist prepares your recording for the interpreting ophthalmologist.
- A report is typed up and distributed to the appropriate physicians.
- **You must bring a driver** as your eyes will remain dilated afterwards for quite a while.