Visual Evoked Potential (VEP)

A VEP is a recording of the electrical signal at the optic centers of the brain following presentation of a stimulus. We use an alternating checkerboard pattern on a TV screen or a flashing light.

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

VEP's are performed for many reasons, including:

- Blindness
- Optic neuropathies or atrophy
- Demyelinating diseases
- Visual perception

Prior to your test

- If you wear glasses or contact lenses, make sure to bring or wear them to your appointment

During your test

- The technologist will ask you questions about why you have been referred.
- We will measure and mark your head with a washable grease pencil.
- We will clean each spot with a special abrasive cleaner to ensure a good contact.
- Surface electrodes are placed on each spot, held on with a special conductive paste.
- You will be seated in a chair in front of a television and will be required to focus on a center point on the screen, while the checkerboard pattern alternates or the light is flashing.
- Each eye is stimulated separately, while the other is covered with a patch.
- The technologist will give you a chance to rest your eyes in between each part of the recording.
- Sometimes it is necessary to record another trial with a different checkerboard size.
- It is important to be alert and focused on the screen during the recordings.

How long does it take?

A VEP normally takes about ½ an hour, but is not uncommon to take up to an hour.

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 neurologist.
- A report is typed up and distributed to the appropriate physicians.