

Information about ElectroEncephaloGram (EEG)

What is ElectroEncephaloGram (EEG)?

An ElectroEncephaloGram (EEG) is a recording of the electrical activity of the brain (brainwaves). We hope this recording will provide your Neurologist with useful information to help diagnose your condition. The test will be carried out by a clinical physiologist.

How is the test carried out?

When you arrive a physiologist will explain the test and gain your consent for carrying out the test. A video will be recorded alongside your brainwaves if you consent to this. Please come to the department with clean, dry hair that is free from hair products.

If you wear a hair piece please let staff know prior to attending the department by contacting the telephone number below.

The physiologist records your brainwaves with small, safe, disc-shaped electrodes placed on your scalp. To prepare the skin for the electrodes the physiologist will use a gentle exfoliant; this is similar to a face scrub. The physiologist will then apply 23 small disc-shaped electrodes to your head to record your brainwaves using a paste suitable for the skin. Two stickers are placed on your shoulders or wrists to record your heart rate during the recording.

During the test we will ask you to open and close your eyes a few times. We may ask you to do a deep breathing and flashing light exercise.

Electrodes will be removed at the end of the recording and the physiologist will clean your hair though some residue will remain and a hair wash will be required at home.

Will it hurt?

Some may find the application of electrodes slightly uncomfortable.

How long will it take?

The test normally takes 45-60 minutes. We will occasionally do a longer recording if you fall asleep.

Will the test do me any harm?

If you have been referred because of possible seizures or attacks, very occasionally this may occur during the test. If this occurs protocols are in place to ensure your safety.

When will I get my results?

The results of the test will not be available until it has been reviewed by a physiologist and reported by medical staff. The results of the test are sent to the doctor that referred you. The referring doctor will discuss the results of the test with you.

If you have any questions regarding your appointment please direct these to the Neurophysiology department on 0141-201-2580.

Review date: December 2026