

## Neurophysiology Department

# Your motor evoked potential test

## Information for patients, relatives, and carers

### What is a motor evoked potential test (MEP)?

We stimulate the brain by holding a special magnet over your head, and then measure the electrical responses from muscles in your arms and legs. These electrical responses are called Motor evoked potentials (MEPs). This test helps us to understand how well your nerves, and the motor part of your spinal cord are working.

### What should I do on the day of the test?

- Please don't put any oil or moisturiser on your skin, as this can mean the sensors don't stick to your skin very easily.
- Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothes for the appointment, as we will perform these tests on the arms and legs. .
- You can eat and drink as usual beforehand.
- You should continue to take all of your usual medication unless you have been told otherwise.
- If you have any of the following conditions, please let us know as soon as possible, as this test will not be suitable, epilepsy, tinnitus, migraine or any implantable device such as cardiac pacemaker, cardioverters or defibrillators, cochlear implant, stimulators or medication pump, deep brain stimulators or shunts

### What happens during the test?

- The test will be performed in the Neurophysiology department of St Mary's hospital. To record the responses from the muscles, the consultant or healthcare scientist will rub a cold gel onto a few areas of your arms and legs and then attach small sensors to your them. You will sit down and a large magnet will then be held over your head. The magnet will make a loud clicking noise when it stimulates the brain. The test does not hurt. The test will last for around 1-2 hours.

### What happens after the test?

After the test, the sensors will be removed by the consultant or the healthcare scientist. There are no side effects. You will be able to continue with your usual activities after the test. You will not receive the results during the appointment. A neurophysiology consultant will prepare a report which will be sent back to your referring consultant. This will take about two weeks.

If you are not aware of a follow-up appointment with your referring consultant, please contact them to arrange this, so they can explain your results.

## Any risk or complications following the test?

There are no common side effects, and you will be able to continue with your usual activities after the test.

## Contact Us

If you are unable to attend your test or have any questions or concerns about your appointment, please contact us on:

Neurophysiology Department Charing Cross Hospital: 020 331 11329 / 17515

We are open Monday-Friday 8-4 pm

## How to find us:

Please refer to your letter to see which site you will be having your test.

Charing Cross Hospital: Main Tower Block > South wing > 3rd floor

\*Please arrive on time for your appointment. If you are running late please contact us otherwise, we may have to cancel or rebook you for another time.

## How do I comment on my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at [imperial.pals@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.pals@nhs.net) The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints Department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street  
London W2 1NY

Email: [ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net](mailto:ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net)

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

## Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or alternative languages. Please email the communications team:  
[imperial.communications@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.communications@nhs.net)

## Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: [www.imperial.nhs.uk](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk)

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