



Vestibular Evoked Myogenic Potential (VEMP)

You have been referred for an assessment of part of your balance organ, which will last up to 60 minutes and will be performed by an Audiologist.

What is VEMP testing?

It is a test of the saccule and the inferior part of the balance nerve which are part of the balance organ. The saccule is responsible for detecting up and down movements of the head. The saccule can also respond to loud sound played into the ear. The response to the loud sound can be measured from a large muscle in the neck. This is known as a cervical VEMP (cVEMP). The signals are then analysed and magnified and we can look at them on the computer screen.

Before the VEMP test

1. We will examine your ears
2. Tympanometry – a soft tip is placed in your ear canal. You will feel a slight pressure for a few seconds and hear a low pitched tone. A chart is recorded showing how well your eardrum moves. We need to apply some small electrodes on the large muscle in your neck, at the base of your throat and on your forehead. These are then connected by leads to the computer. Before we put the small electrodes on we need to rub the skin underneath with some slightly abrasive cream which helps to ensure that the small electrode and skin has a good contact. This is not painful, but may feel a little rough. The small electrode is then placed on the skin.

Do I need to do anything?

You will be sat comfortably on a chair. We will place small earphones in your ears and you will hear loud sound for about 45 seconds. We will ask you to turn your head to the side and tighten the large muscle in your neck whilst the sound is present. You will have a monitor to look at that will guide you on how much the muscle needs to be tightened.

Results

After the test, the audiologist will discuss the results with you and if appropriate a report will be sent to your ear, nose and throat (ENT) consultant.

Communication needs

If you require an interpreter at your appointment please telephone **0121 371 4756** or email interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk.

Students

Please note that as this is a teaching hospital, a student may carry out some or all of your appointment under supervision of a qualified audiologist. If you do not wish to have a student present during your appointment please let reception know on your arrival.

On the appointment day

Do not apply any foundation cream or powder makeup to your face and neck. You may apply eye make-up as normal.

If possible please be clean shaven on the neck and throat area.

Information for Patients

Patient transport

If you are eligible for patient transport, please contact West Midlands Ambulance non-emergency Patient Transport Service on 0800 035 6511. Please note that transport is only available for Monday to Friday appointments.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Audiology Centre

Ground Floor, Nuffield House
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston
Birmingham, B15 2TH

Telephone: 0121 371 7100

Email: Audiology@uhb.nhs.uk

Mobile text: 07939 988 871

Text phone: 0121 371 7105

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk.