

To learn more about University of Washington Medical Center, visit this Web site:

<http://www.uwmedicalcenter.org>

Questions?

Call 206-598-4211

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. The EEG Clinic staff is also available to answer questions you may have prior to your visit.

EEG/Evoked Potential Lab:
Room NN283
206-598-4211



IOM

Intraoperative monitoring

Your surgeon referred you to our lab for some baseline testing to help plan your surgery. Similar testing will be done during surgery to monitor your nerve pathways. Some of these pathways may include the brain, brainstem, or spinal cord. Our team's role is to provide the surgeon with timely information about these pathways and structures during the operation.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
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About BAEPs

A *brainstem auditory evoked potential* (BAEP) test measures how well the hearing pathway responds to sound. The test involves attaching a few electrodes to your head. You will wear headphones that deliver a clicking sound to your ear.

The hearing pathway is tested before surgery for tumors at or near the base of the skull. A common type of tumor in this location is an *acoustic neuroma*. In the operating room, the surgeon uses the BAEP to check the hearing pathway and to attempt to preserve hearing.

Facial nerve function is also recorded, since these two nerves are together inside the skull.

With the use of these recordings in the operating room, the surgeon is better able to identify nerve structures close to tumors and to attempt to preserve their functions.

About SSEPs

Somatosensory evoked potentials (SSEPs) are recordings of electrical signals as they travel through the sensory nerve pathways to the brain.

A technologist will attach electrodes to your arms, legs, back, neck, and scalp. Nerves in the arms or legs are stimulated and the signal is recorded. The doctor evaluates the speed of the signal through the pathways.

SSEPs are used often in the operating room to monitor signals from the peripheral nerve, spinal cord, brainstem, or brain.

The surgeon uses this information to help guide the safe removal of tumors.

Language Mapping

Some brain surgeries involve the side of the brain that is used for speech. The specific sites for speech and language vary with each person.

For this reason, the surgeon often needs to identify which portion of the brain is responsible for language during the operation. This procedure requires that the patient remain awake for some of the operation.

During your visit in the lab, you will view slides and name the objects you see. This test usually takes about 15 to 30 minutes.

Our goal is to provide information to make your surgery as safe as possible.

Your Lab Visit Is Scheduled for:

Day: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

It is likely that you will have several appointments on the same day you are coming to the EEG lab. If you are late because of your other appointments, we will do our best to complete your testing with us.

You may have a family member or a friend come with you during the testing.