

EEG (Electroencephalogram)

An EEG is a test that records the electrical activity of the brain. The test may be done to check for:

- Seizures
- Confusion or changes in behavior
- Head injury or disease
- Changes in level of unconsciousness

Arrive on time for your test. Plan on being here about 2 hours.

To Prepare

- The night before your test:
 - Sleep as much as you want.
 - Sleep only half the amount of time that you sleep other nights. For example, if you sleep 8 hours a night, sleep 4 hours the night before your test.
 - Do not sleep.
- **Avoid all caffeine food and drinks** such as chocolate, coffee, tea and soft drinks after midnight before the test.
- **Wash your hair before the test.** Do not use any conditioner, oils, gels, sprays and lotions in your hair until the test is done.

During the Test

Small pads, called electrodes, are put on your scalp with paste, or you may have a cap to wear on your head that has the pads attached. The pads pick up the electrical activity of your brain and send it through wires to a machine.

- You will be on your back on a bed or reclining chair for the test.
- You need to be still with your eyes closed during the test.
- During the test you also may:
 - Be asked to breathe deep and fast through your mouth
 - Be shown a flashing light for a short time
 - Sleep
- You will feel no pain.

After the Test

- The pads and paste are taken off your scalp. You can wash your hair at home with shampoo to remove the rest of the paste.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.