

## Where to go?

Department of Medical Technology and Physics (MTP)

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

Ground Floor G Block

Entry through glass sliding door off Watling Walk near the Blue Lifts.

Short term childcare facilities are not available in the hospital. Please make arrangements for someone to look after your other children during the testing.

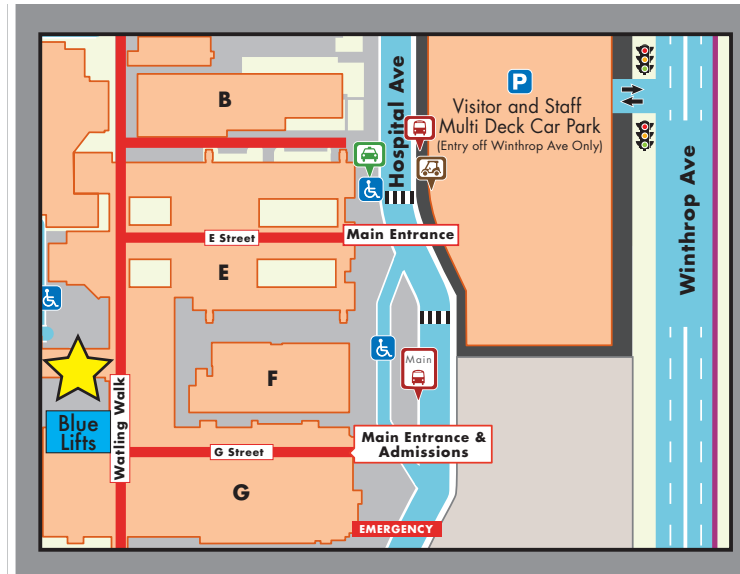


Medical Technology and Physics  
G Block

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital  
Hospital Avenue, Nedlands 6009

Phone: (08) 6457 2866  
Email: [scghmtp@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:scghmtp@health.wa.gov.au)

Monday to Friday  
8:00am to 5:00pm



Multi deck car park is only accessible  
from Winthrop Ave

We are unable to organise transport

# VISUAL ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY FOR CHILDREN



Please confirm your appointment  
as soon as possible



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health

# VEP and ERG testing for children under four years of age

## Why does my child need testing?

Sometimes it can be difficult to find out how much babies and children can see. Your eye specialist has requested that we carry out some vision tests on your child. The VEP and ERG are two tests that can provide clues as to how the visual pathway is functioning.

## What is a VEP?

The VEP (Visual Evoked Potential) provides us with information about optic nerve function. Five small button electrodes are placed on your child's head and a flashing light is used to stimulate the visual system. An electrical response can be detected from the visual part of the brain. We test one eye at a time using a patch to cover the other eye.

## What is an ERG?

The ERG (Electroretinogram) is a test of retinal function. The retina is the lining at the back of the eye that produces an electrical signal in response to light. Eye drops are used to dilate the eyes. These drops may sting briefly when applied. Your child rests in a darkened room for 20 minutes. Testing takes place in a darkened room with button electrodes placed underneath and to the side of each eye. A flashing light is used to stimulate the retina. After completing several

steps in the dark, the lights are turned on. We wait 10 minutes for the retina to light adapt; and the last steps of testing are completed with the lights on.

## How long will the appointment take?

The appointment takes between 2 and 3 hours.

## Does it hurt?

There may be a brief sting from the dilatory drops used.

## Getting ready for your visit

Children of this age generally perform best if testing takes place when they are alert and well rested.

If your child is sick before or on the day of your appointment, please call the clinic as your appointment may need to be rescheduled.

Bring along a drink/bottle or some snacks, favourite toys and/or iPad/phone with some favourite (calming) music.

We do not have childcare facilities on site and recommend that you do not bring other children to this appointment. If you have no other option then please bring someone to watch them for you during the appointment.

## What if I can't make the appointment?

Please contact us as soon as possible to allow rescheduling. Please note that last minute cancellations without a valid reason may result in a lengthy delay.

## When do I get the results?

Your results are sent to your referring doctor within 4-6 weeks. Should your doctor require the results sooner, he/she can contact us for a technical report.

