

Department of Neurology

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Evoked Potentials Test

What is an evoked potential test?

An evoked potential test (or EP test) measures the time it takes different nerves to respond when we stimulate them. We can test different areas of the body and measure the size of the response. There are three different types of EP tests. Depending on what your doctor wants to check, you could have one, two, or all three tests. This means you could be at the hospital for up to 4 hours or multiple days.

The results from your test are sent to your family doctor and the referring doctor.

How is the test done?

We mark out different spots on your head using a washable crayon. We clean each spot with special gel. Then we place small electrodes to your head using water-soluble paste. Where we place the electrodes depends on which type of response we want to record.

What are the different types of responses?

Somatosensory (SEP)

We record nerve response to sensations in the arms and legs.

Along with the electrodes on your head, we place small electrodes on your shoulders, neck, lower back, and behind your knees.

We put a mild electrical pulse to your wrists and ankles, which is not painful.

This test takes 1 to 2 hours.

Visual (VEP)

We record nerve response while stimulating your vision. To do this, we ask you to focus on a black and white test pattern. We might ask you to look at a video monitor or wear a pair of goggles.

If you wear glasses or contacts, you must bring them with you.

This test takes 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Auditory (BAEP)

We record nerve response while stimulating your hearing. We do this by asking you to listen to 'clicking' test tones through headphones.

This test takes 30 minutes to 1 hour.

How to prepare for the test

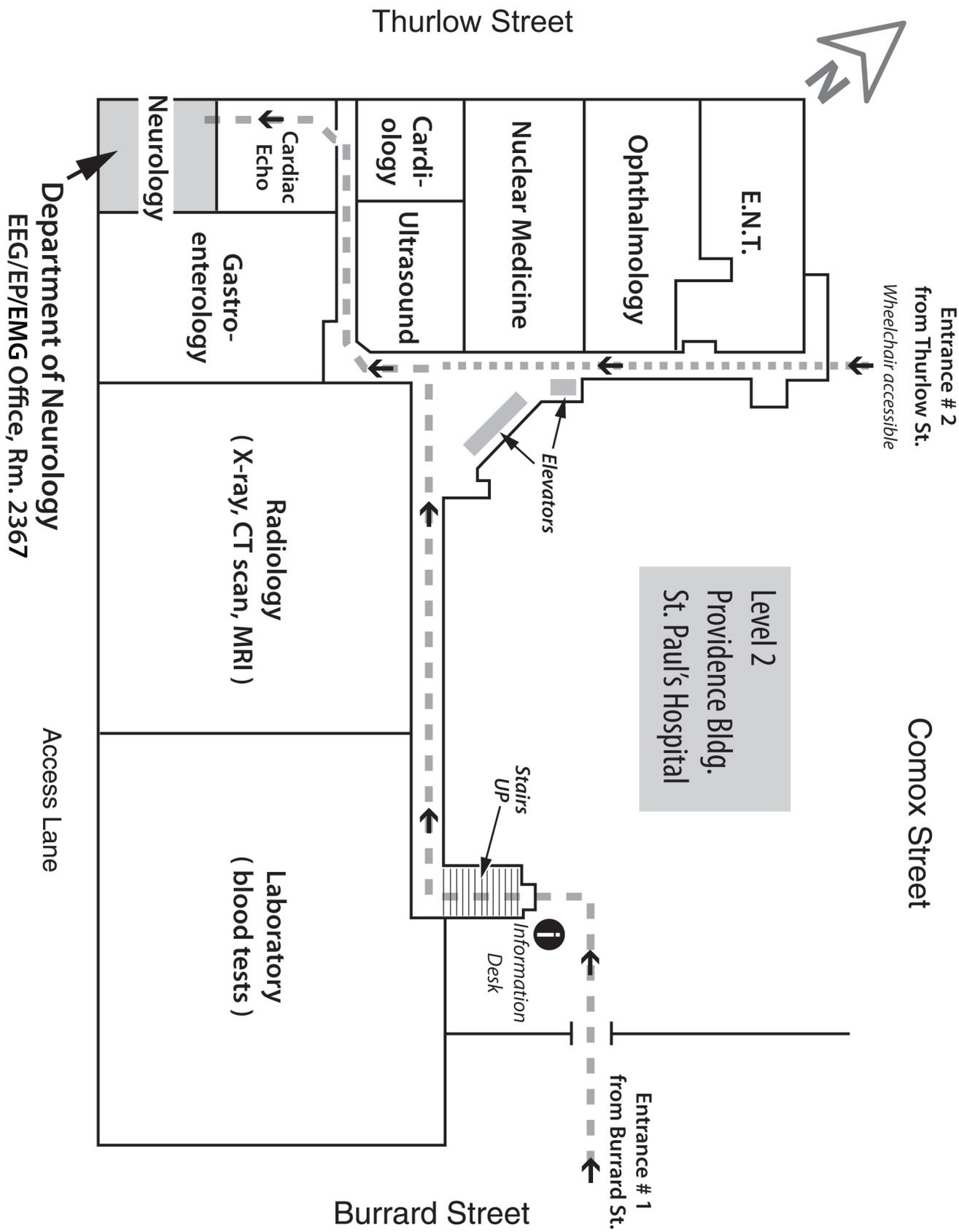
- Wash your hair the night before or the morning of the test. Make sure your hair is completely dry before coming to the hospital. Do not put any hair products in your hair such as gel or hairspray.
- Do not put on any body lotion or hand cream.
- Take your medicines as you normally would.
- Bring a list of medicines you are currently taking.
- Eat what you normally would eat in the morning.
- If you wear glasses or contacts, remember to bring them with you.
- Wear loose comfortable clothes. Wear pants that can roll up above the knees.
- If you do not speak or understand English well enough to have medical conversations, let us know when you call **one week** before the test. We will book a medical interpreter. You do not pay for this service.

Appointment Date:

Time: _____ (a.m. / p.m.)

One week before your appointment,
call 604-806-8650 to **confirm** your
appointment.

If you do not call, your appointment
will be cancelled.



The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.