

ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAM (EEG)

[Home](#) > [Health Hub](#) > [Health Library](#) > [Electroencephalogram \(EE...](#)

What is an electroencephalogram (EEG)?

Electroencephalogram (EEG)

How do I prepare for an EEG?

What is an electroencephalogram (EEG)?

What happens during the EEG?

An electroencephalogram (EEG) is a test during which the electrical signals of the brain are recorded. This electrical activity is detected by electrodes, or sensors, placed on the patient's scalp, and transmitted to an amplifier that records the activity.

What happens after the test?

How do I prepare for an EEG?



Download as PDF

Discuss any medicines you are taking with your doctor prior to your procedure. Continue to take any anticonvulsant medications you have been prescribed (unless your doctor specifically tells you otherwise). Wash your hair the night before the test. Do not use hair cream, oils, or spray afterward.



Share this Article

What happens during the EEG?

You lie down on the examining table or bed while about 20 electrodes are attached to your scalp. You are asked to relax and lie first with your eyes open, then closed. You might be asked to breathe deeply and rapidly, or to stare at a flashing light. Both of these activities produce changes in the brain-wave patterns. If you are prone to seizures, it is rare that you might experience one during the test.

What happens after the test?

The electrodes are removed and the glue that held them in place is washed away with acetone. You may have to use additional acetone at home to completely remove the glue. Unless you are actively having seizures or are restricted by your physician, you may drive home. If the EEG was performed overnight, you should arrange to have someone drive you home. A neurologist/epileptologist examines the EEG recording for

abnormalities in the brain-wave pattern, which might reflect diseases of the nervous system, including epilepsy.

© Copyright 1995-2018 The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. All rights reserved.

This information is provided by the Cleveland Clinic and is not intended to replace the medical advice of your doctor or healthcare provider. Please consult your healthcare provider for advice about a specific medical condition.

Speak with our Contact Center for assistance

 800 8 2223

 Request An Appointment

[MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS](#) | [MEDIA CENTER](#) | [FAQs](#) | [CAREERS](#)



[Site Map](#) | [Legal](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Social Media Terms Of Use](#)

Copyright © Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi LLC 2018
MOH: SU21651

