Pediatric Outpatient Video EEG (Electroencephalogram)

Name ____________________________________________________

Appointment Date _________________________________________

Appointment Time _________________________________________

Arriving for your EEG

- To get to the EEG Lab, take Main Street on the 2nd floor to the J module.
- Go through the H elevator lobby to the EEG desk and check in.
- If this is your child’s first visit to the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, please allow extra time to register. Volunteers at the main desk can direct you.
- Your EEG appointment is in the EEG lab, J module/2nd floor.
- You must stop and register 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.
- Registration is on the main floor as you make your way on ‘Main Street’ to the EEG lab in the J module.
- Follow ‘Main Street’ towards the J module. Registration will be on your right hand side.
- After registration, continue right on ‘Main Street’ through the H elevator lobby to the J lobby.
- Please check in at the EEG desk.

What is an EEG?

This test helps us to find out more about the kind of seizures or events your child may be having. During the test, your child’s actions and behaviors are recorded by a camera. This is paired with an EEG recording of your child’s brain wave activity. Sometimes, movements may look like seizures, but they are not. If your child has seizures, this study will help us learn how strong they are and how often they occur. It will also help us find out what part of the brain the seizures are coming from.

This test will also help us decide if your child is having silent seizures. These are seizures that occur without any physical signs. Changes can be seen on the EEG with this type of seizure.

The test is painless. There will not be any shots or special medicines used. Small metal disks will be placed on your child’s scalp. Your child’s hair will be moved out of the way. These disks will be held in place using special glue, made just for this test.

A gel (salt jelly) will be placed in each disk. The gel allows us to pick up your child’s brainwaves. We will wrap your head and the wires with a gauze bandage to keep them secure for the day.
The time needed for an outpatient video EEG may be from 2 to 8 hours.
- Try to arrive 15 minutes before scheduled test time.
- You and your child will be in a large, comfortable room for the day. There will be a TV/VCR/DVD along with a Play Station for games in the room.
- You and your child will be asked to stay in this room for as long as the test takes except to use the restroom which is just outside the room. An adult must be with your child at all times.
- Please bring with you any items to keep you and your child busy such as books, cross word puzzles, movies, videos, and other such things.
- Your child’s hair must be clean for this test. Wash it the night before or in the morning and do not apply a lot of conditioners, gels, or sprays.
- If the test is ordered as ‘Sleep Deprived’, try to keep your child up as late as you can the night before. See the Health Facts for Sleep Deprived EEG #4207.
- You may purchase food items from the cafeteria or you can bring your own snacks from home.
- When the test is complete, the disks will be removed with a mineral-oil based remover. Your child’s hair will be somewhat oily when you leave. This will shampoo out. You may choose to have the disks removed with nail polish remover to avoid the problem of oily hair. This has a strong odor. We will not use it unless you ask for it.

After the Procedure
Full test reports are almost always ready in 2 weeks. Results may be given over the phone or at a later visit.

Insurance
- This test may require pre-authorization from your insurance company.
- Not all insurance companies will pay for this.
- Please call your insurance to find out if this test is covered.
- You may also need a referral from your primary doctor. If so, ask your primary doctor for this and send it to the insurance company. This will need to be done as soon as possible.
- It often takes 2-4 weeks to find out about coverage. The insurance company will contact you after they make their decision.
- Because this process can be very complex, feel free to contact the HMO desk at (608) 263-8773, if you have any question or need help with your insurance.

Phone Numbers
If you have any questions about the test, please call:

EEG lab at (608) 263-8483, your child’s nurse at (608) 890-6500 or,

If you live out of the area, call 1-800-323-8942. Ask for the Pediatric Neurology Clinic.

The Spanish version of this Health Facts for You is #7052.