

Electrophysiological testing of the retina, ERG

Purpose of the test

The electroretinography (ERG) test is designed to measure the electrical activity in the retina.

Preparing for the test

- Your vision will be briefly impaired after the test because your pupils will be dilated. Because of this, **you cannot drive a car for six hours after the test.**
- It is recommended to **bring along sunglasses** because you may be light sensitive after the test until your pupils return to their normal size.
- Wash your face before coming to the test. Your face should be clean, dry, and free of any gels, oils, makeup, or lotion.

Test procedure

A nurse will clean and dry the skin on your forehead and attach small measurement sensors with some tape. Next, eye drops are put in both your eyes to dilate the pupils. Eye drops may cause stinging for a few seconds. Before the test, you will spend half an hour in a dimly lit room with a red light to get your eyes adjusted to darkness. After this numbing anesthetic eye drops are put in your eyes before contact lens-like sensors are placed gently on the surface of your eyes. You will sit with your chin on a chin rest and look at a flashing light inside the test equipment. You will see single flashes and flash sequences. The test is painless, but the contact lenses might feel a little unpleasant. The test takes about an hour to complete.

After the test

The numbing effect of the eye drops lasts up to two hours, so be careful to protect your eyes and avoid rubbing them. Mild redness and watering of the eyes are possible after the test and will usually resolve spontaneously. If you experience severe redness and pain in your eye(s), please contact your own health care center.

A clinical neurophysiologist will analyse the test results and a report will be sent to the clinic that requested the test. They will inform you of the test results and any possible follow-up appointments.