

Somatosensory evoked potential (SEP) examination

Purpose of the Examination

The purpose of the examination is to study the functionality of the sensory tracts of the nervous system.

Preparing for the Examination

- You should have clean and dry hair when coming to the examination. You should not apply any hair products. If your work includes welding, wash your hair especially carefully. Accumulated metallic dust in your hair can cause several technical disturbances during the examination.
- Try to sleep regularly during the night before the examination. If your work includes shifts, it is recommended to avoid an evening or a night shift on the day before the examination.
- You can take any regularly taken medicine as you normally would. You can also eat normally before the examination.
- Dress so that it is easy to reveal your limbs. If necessary, you should bring along short underwear as well.

Examination Process

Measurement labels are attached on the surface of your skin, below your collarbone and in your neck, in an upper limb examination. In a lower limb examination, the labels are attached to the back of your knees and in your back. In addition, some measurement wires are attached to the skin on your head with water-soluble adhesive paste.

You will lay on a bed, as relaxed as possible, during the examination. The stimuli used in the examination are brief electrical impulses. The impulses can cause a brief pinching sensation, which is harmless. The stimulated area is either your wrist or your ankle, depending on if your arms or legs are examined. The examination lasts for about an hour.

After the Examination

Possible residue from the paste will be washed away when you next wash your hair.

A clinical neurophysiologist will analyse the examination and write a report. The report is directed to the clinic that ordered the examination. They will inform you of the examination results and any possible follow-ups.