

Video telemetry (video EEG)

Information for patients, parents and guardians

Video telemetry, also known as video EEG, is a specialised sort of electro-encephalogram (EEG). It videos your child while simultaneously recording brainwave activity.

It has the advantage of being able to see what your child is doing while they are having a seizure. This can help identify types of epilepsy, show where the seizure originates from and how the electrical activity of the seizure spreads through the brain.

The results can help to diagnose the type of seizures your child is having and help decide if your child is suitable for epilepsy surgery.

Continuous video EEG is performed day and night for up to five days. It may be less than five days if enough seizure activity is recorded in a shorter period.

The aim is to record several of your child's usual seizures and obtain some recording between seizures.

What to do before admission

- Phone admissions or the ward to check a bed is available before you leave home.
- Wash your child's hair. Do not use any hair products such as gel and hairspray.
- Pack enough clothes, toiletries and any other essentials you may need. for you and your child for five days. You are advised to bring in tops for your child that button up so they are able to get them on and off while attached to the EEG.
- You are encouraged to stay with your child. There is a fold up bed by your child's bed.
- Explain to your child what is going to happen during their hospital stay.
- Bring some games, books and DVDs to help occupy your child, as they will be spending all their time on their bed or on the chair by their bed so that they are in view of the video camera. The ward also has a supply of toys, games, PS2, DVDs and so on, and a play specialist to help occupy your child.
- Continue to give your child their anti-epileptic medication, unless asked specifically to reduce the dose by your doctor or nurse specialist. Bring all medication in with you.

Once your child has been admitted

Your child will have the EEG electrodes attached to their head with special glue. The technician will then attach the wires to the machine and set it running. The nurses and doctors will take a history and find out from you what your child's seizures are like.

There is an event button attached to the machine. You (and your child, if they are able to cooperate) will be shown how to use it. It is very important to press this button when your child feels a seizure coming on or when a seizure begins. The ward nurses will also observe closely, especially overnight, and will press the button if they see a seizure occurring and the button hasn't already been pressed.

You and the nurses will keep a diary to record any seizures that occur. This will include what happens before, a description of the seizure, length of the seizure and what happens afterwards.

It may be necessary to reduce or stop your child's medication in order to have the best chance of recording some seizures. This is done as directed by the consultant neurologist.

If you leave the ward at any time please let the nursing staff know so they can observe your child more closely.

At the end of the week

On the Friday (about lunchtime) the EEG electrodes will be removed and most of the glue will be removed with the pads. Any residual glue can be removed at home with regular hair washes and combing.

If your child's anti-epileptic drugs have been stopped during the video telemetry it may be necessary for them to stay in hospital until the Saturday morning to allow 24 hours back on normal medication before they leave. This is because there is a greater risk of your child having a major seizure at this time and they can be more closely observed in hospital.

It will take a few weeks for all the information from the video telemetry to be analysed by the neurophysiologists. They will then report back to your child's doctor.

Once this has happened you will be given the opportunity to discuss the findings and what treatment options are available.

Further information

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Kate Bailey, paediatric epilepsy surgery nurse specialist on **07794 368 342** or the ward on **023 8120 6692**.

This leaflet is intended for general information only. For individual advice please contact your doctor.

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audiotape, please telephone **023 8120 4688** for help.

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