YOU ARE HAVING VIDEO TELEMETRY

Your Doctor has arranged for you to be admitted to hospital for video telemetry. It is likely you will have some questions and it is only natural to feel a little apprehensive.

This leaflet is designed to answer some commonly asked questions and, hopefully, allay any concerns. If you have any further questions please ask us; contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

What is video telemetry?
You will be connected to equipment which simultaneously measures your electrical brain activity (EEG) and videos you. You will be monitored day and night for 3-5 days.

Why do the Doctors want to do this?

Videotelemetry may enable the doctors to give you a more accurate diagnosis about the nature of your attacks. It allows them to see the seizure activity in the brain while having visual evidence of what was happening to you at the time.
What will happen when I am admitted to hospital?

Please arrive with hair that is freshly washed and dried, do not use any hair products like hairspray, mousse or oil.

Continue to take your tablets as normal and bring them with you to show the doctors.

You will be shown to the ward, where the nurses and doctors will ask detailed questions about your epilepsy, general health etc. It is helpful if someone who has seen your attacks can accompany you, to describe what they would see. You may be asked to sign a consent form allowing us to use your recording for teaching purposes. If you are happy to consent to this, the recording will be kept strictly confidential, and used in the training of health care professionals.

During the afternoon you will be connected to the video telemetry equipment. Like a normal EEG, small metal discs with attached wires (electrodes) will be applied to your scalp using special glue. Although most of the glue will be removed when the electrodes are taken off, any residue will wear off when you next wash your hair. Combing through lots of conditioner also helps.

The camera is like a CCTV camera and will be mounted on the wall. You are attached to the equipment by a long cable, which allows you to move freely around the room and en-suite bathroom. You are not filmed in the bathroom.
What will happen over the next week?
The aim of the admission is to record several of your normal seizures and also obtain some recording of you between seizures. Unfortunately the equipment is not mobile, so the majority of the week will be spent by your bed.

If you smoke, we are unable to allow you off the ward for a cigarette while you are being recorded. Discuss this with the Doctor when you arrive who can prescribe nicotine patches for you if necessary. Please remember long periods of chewing e.g. chewing gum or sweets will interrupt the recording.

Event button
When the electrodes are put on, the staff will show you the event button. It is very important to press this button if you feel an attack coming on. It will mark the tape allowing staff to find the exact time the attack started. If you do not get a warning don’t worry:

- The nurses will press it if they observe you having an attack. They will also document what they observe on a chart.
- If it has not been done already, press the button as soon as possible afterwards if you think you may have had an attack

What should I bring with me?
It is advisable to bring activities to help pass the time. We have a TV/DVD/CD player with a small library of music, films and games but please feel free to bring any favourites!
You can get dressed during the day, but try to bring clothes that have stretchy necks or button up the front, so the leads on your head do not get dislodged.
You will need to bring warm clothing for the night, as there are no bed covers. This is so we can see any movement clearly, if you have a seizure overnight.

Visitors
If you are having visitors you may want to show them the event button and nurse call buzzer. Ask them to press them for you if they witness an attack. It is also helpful to show them where the camera is so they do not block the view. During a seizure it is helpful if your visitors do not talk and turn down the radio or TV. (If it is on) to help us get the best recording of anything you may say during an attack.

Patients undergoing assessment for surgery
Your consultant will have already discussed the assessment process, and the possibility of surgery with you.

To ensure we have the best chance of recording some seizures, your consultant may suggest reducing your medication whilst you are in hospital. This will be carried out with your consent, following a strict protocol. You will be observed on your normal dose for at least 24hrs before leaving hospital.

For questions about your admission telephone:
Medical patients: 023 8079 4030
Assessment for surgery: 023 8079 8623  
epilepsy@suht.swest.nhs.uk

For a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print or braille, please contact Access to Communication  023 8079 4688

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