

Cortical Auditory Evoked Potentials (CAEP)

This leaflet explains more about CAEP (corticals) testing. If you have any further questions, please speak to the Audiologist caring for you.

What is CAEP testing?

This is a (non-invasive and) simple audiology testing procedure, much like an ECG test that measures your heart rhythm, but it measures how your brain hears. It is non-invasive, which means our test is only on the outside of your skin.

The advantage of corticals is that it provides your Audiologist with a way of testing your hearing, without you having to do something to show that you have heard the sound such as “pressing the button when you hear the beep”. This testing can provide your audiologist and wider team with information that can help inform your care and hearing aid programming.

You will be requested to watch a muted film on a screen with subtitles, while three to four removable sticky pads are attached to the top of your scalp, your forehead and possibly behind your ears which connect to our computer. You will hear sounds through some earphones that sit inside your ear, in much the same way as a standard hearing test. You do not have to respond to these sounds during the test.

Who can attend / receive the service?

Eligible patients will be offered the opportunity to have this test, if the Audiologist has identified a clinical need for this form of testing compared to standard behavioural testing.

Patients cannot self-refer into the CAEP Clinic. Referrals from an Audio-Vestibular Physician (AVP) will be accepted on a case-by-case basis. GPs are advised to refer to suitable AVP services in the first instance.

In terms of booking, the Audiology service will contact you as per your normal appointments. There may be a short waiting time to access this service from initial identification of need for testing.

Where do I need to go?

Your initial appointment will take approximately one hour to undergo the testing. You will hear the outcome of your testing via a report which will be copied to your GP if you consent to that option. Your ENT or AVP doctor will also have access to your results.

If you wear hearing aids, there will likely be a follow-up appointment where your hearing aids will be programmed or set up and at this stage your audiologist will be able to explain your results in person if required or answer any questions.

Patient transport can be arranged as per typical Audiology services.

Location:

ENT & Audiology
Ground Floor, Lanesborough Wing,
St George's Hospital,
Blackshaw Rd
Tooting, London
SW17 0QT

Does it cost anything?

This service is provided as part of your NHS Audiology care and no charges will apply.

What do I need to bring with me?

Please bring your NHS hearing aids if you have been issued them already.

You do not need to bring any medications or special clothing.

Contact us

If you need to change your appointment date, please contact 020 8266 6363 / 020 8725 1122 or Audiologist.Appointments@stgeorges.nhs.uk (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) stating your name, date of birth and that you are booked into the Cortical Clinic.

For General Enquires please contact 020 8725 1151 or stgh-tr.audiology@nhs.net

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all of our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.

References

Professional Guidance Document <https://www.thebsa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Cortical-ERA.pdf>



Reference: AUD_CAEP_01 **Published:** August 2020 **Review date:** August 2022