Electroretinography

Alternative Names

ERG; Electrophysiologic testing

Definition of Electroretinography:

Electroretinography is a test to measure the electrical response of the eye's light-sensitive cells, called rods and cones. These cells are part of the retina (the back part of the eye).

How the test is performed:

While you are in a sitting position, the health care provider places numbing drops into your eyes, so you will not have any discomfort during the test. Your eyes are held open with a small device called a retractor. An electrical sensor (electrode) is placed on each eye.

The electrode measures the electrical activity of the retina in response to light. A light flashes, and the electrical response travels from the electrode to a TV-like screen, where it can be viewed and recorded. The normal response pattern has waves called A and B.

The doctor will take the readings in normal room light and then again in the dark, after allowing 20 minutes for your eyes to adjust.

How to prepare for the test:

No special preparation is necessary for this test.

How the test will feel:

The probes that rest on your eye may feel a little scratchy. The test takes about 1 hour to perform.

Why the test is performed:

This test is done to detect disorders of the retina. It is also useful in determining if retinal surgery is recommended.

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References


Read more: http://www.umm.edu/ency/article/003388.htm#ixzz1z0LP06cX