



Consultants in Neurology
MidAmerica Neuroscience Research Foundation
8550 Marshall Drive, Suite 100
Lenexa, Kansas 66214
913-894-1500 or 800-753-6992

SSER (Somatosensory Evoked Potential):

Checks the pathway from a nerve in the limb to the brain. The test is a way to study the function of these nerves, the spinal cord and brain.

This test can be ordered on arms, legs or all 4 limbs. It takes 45 minutes to test 2 limbs, and 1-½ hours to test 4 limbs.

1. You will need to wear loose, comfortable clothing that will allow us access to your legs up to 5 inches above your knees, your neck, low back and your hip. Two-piece outfits that have loose legs usually work well. Gowns are available for you to change into if needed.
2. Make sure your hair and skin are clean. Lotion, hair conditioner, light hairspray can be used. Greasy hair treatments and heavy hairspray or styling gels need to be avoided. Make sure and bring a comb with you.
3. You can eat and drink anything you want prior to the test. However, keep in mind you cannot get up to use the bathroom while taking the test, so don't overdo liquids! If you take medication, you can take your medicine as you usually do.
4. One nerve will be stimulated on each wrist and ankle, and the response will be recorded from the local nerve, the spinal cord and brain. The test takes 7-10 minutes on each limb. You will feel an electrical pulse when the stimulator is on, but most people do not find it uncomfortable.