

*From Barry Linder*

A. VEP (visual evoked potential) may be useful in the following

1. Multiple Sclerosis (including progressive spastic paraparesis)
2. Optic neuritis (pure; MS; ischemic; Leber's)
3. Doubtful function of the visual path  
Is any information reaching occipital cortex?  
hysterical, malingered, or cortical blindness
4. Tumor of sella region compressing optic nerve or chiasm  
(sphenoid wing meningioma; suprasellar meningioma;  
craniopharyngioma; pituitary adenoma)
5. Tumor of orbit compressing optic nerve

B. Auditory Brainstem Evoked Response (ABER) may be useful in the following:

1. White matter disease
  - a. Multiple Sclerosis
  - b. Central pontine myelinolysis
  - c. Leukodystrophies (D/D gray matter disease by combination of ABER & EEG)
    1. Pelizaeus-Merzbacher
    2. Metachromatic Leukodystrophy
    3. Adrenal Leukodystrophy
  - d. Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy
2. Cerebellopontine angle tumors (neoplasm, aneurysm, etc)
3. Brain stem lesions (tumor, vascular, etc.)
4. Olivopontocerebellar atrophy (in combination with CT scan)
5. Coma (D/D structural vs toxic, metabolic)
6. Suspected non-organic symptom such as hearing loss.
7. Integrity of the peripheral auditory system (is information reaching the cochlear hair cells; the acoustic nerve?)
  - a. CM generated by hair cells
  - b. PI generated by acoustic nerve (cochlear neurons)
8. Symptoms that might be due to either brainstem or peripheral disorder (vertigo)
9. Assessing response to Rx in brainstem lesions
  - a. anti-infectious
  - b. anti-neoplastic
10. Brain death.

Abbreviations:

AEP	Auditory Evoked Potential
CNV	Contingent Negative Variation
EP	Evoked Potential
ERP	Event-Related Potential
LPC	Late Positive Complex
N400	N400
P300	P300
RP	Readiness Potential
SEP	Somatosensory Evoked Potential
SW	Slow Wave
VEP	Visual Evoked Potential

- a. Picton et al EEGCNP 1974, 36: 179-190 (Part I)
- b. but finer tests (occlusion by cross modal stimulus 0.5 sec before test tone; interhem asym with certain types of aud. stimuli) show that N1,P2 have some modal specificity pp.187-88 in Picton.<sup>a</sup>
- c. but in addition, N1,P2 are increased in amp. and altered in scalp topography by rare-tone detection task.<sup>a</sup>
- d. Davis 1976, Annals ORL p.27.
- e. Simson et al 1976 EEGCNP 40: 33-42.
- f. Both 250 msec and 300 msec are given by Picton et al.<sup>a</sup>

I. Kinds of PRVEP abnormality (monocular stimulation; midline occipital recording)

A. Latency

1. Latency increased
2. Latency difference left eye vs. right eye despite normal values of absolute latency

B. Amplitude

3. ↓ amplitude ratio
4. Absence of P2 or of all peaks

C. Form

5. Abnormal form of P2

II. Kinds of abnormality in ABER

Site of lesion\*  
(ipsilateral to  
stimulated ear)

A. Latency

1. Increased latency between peaks (Inter-Peak Interval) B; CPA
2. Increased latency of all peaks, but interpeak intervals normal P

B. Amplitude

1. Absence of all peaks { B (< 70dB loss);  
P; CPA (70-80 dB loss)
2. Absence of all peaks after one or more preserved peaks B; CPA
3. Absence of all peaks except for a delayed P5 P; CPA
4. Absence of P5 despite preserved peaks before and after P5 B
5. Decreased amplitude ratio P1/P5 B

C. Form: There are no abnormalities of form in ABER

\*B = brainstem; P = peripheral auditory system;  
CPA = cerebellopontine angle.

Event-Related Potentials:

Exogenous vs. Endogenous

	Exogenous (Evoked)	Endogenous (Cognitive)
Latency	Short: 1-8 msec Middle: 8-50 msec Long: 50-200 msec <sup>g</sup>	Late: 200-500 msec
Duration	Shorter	Longer
Amplitude, latency influenced by	Physical Properties of Stimulus <sup>c</sup>	Significance of stimulus for assigned task
Amplitude, influenced by sleep	Short: No <sup>a</sup> Middle: No <sup>a</sup> Long: Yes <sup>a</sup> (N2 markedly increased by sleep = the auditory evoked K complex in raw EEG. Davis et al 1939) <sup>a</sup>	?
Stimulus Modality-Specific	Short: Yes Middle: Yes Long: No <sup>b</sup>	No
Scalp Maximum	Long N1: Over primary sensory & nearby assoc. cortex (changes with stimulus modality) <sup>e</sup> Long P2: Midline for all sensory modalities <sup>e</sup> Middle: Midline for AEP? <sup>a</sup> Short: Only for field peaks seen on scalp.	At midline (Same for all stimulus modalities)
Generator site	Short: Nerve, brainstem (AEP) Middle: Dorsal root <sup>lets</sup> ; dorsal column in cord (SEP); thalamus & cortex (primary & assoc) <sup>a,d</sup> (AEP) thalamus N20 & radiation P23 (& primary cortex?) (SEP) Long: Primary & Assoc. cortex (?) (VEP) Assoc. cortex (?) (SEP) frontal assoc. cortex <sup>a</sup> (AEP)	Inferior Parietal Lobule?
Nomenclature	Long Latency: Vertex potential (P1N1P2N2) (Davis; Bancaud) (paradigm is auditory EP, but similar with any stimulus modality) Occipital VEP (P1N1P2N2) Parietal SEP	LPC (includes P300) SW CNV N400 RP

Event-Related Potentials:

Exogenous vs. Endogenous

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Amplitude, latency influenced by	Physical Properties of Stimulus	Significance of stimulus for assigned task
Latency	Short 1-8 msec Middle 8-50 msec Long 50-200 msec	Late 200- 500 msec
Duration	Shorter	Longer
Stimulus Modality-Specific	Yes	No
Scalp Maximum	Over primary sensory & assoc. Cortex (changes with stimulus modality)	At midline (Same for all stimulus modalities)
Generator site	Short: Nerve, brainstem (AEP) Middle: Cord (SEP); brainstem (AEP); primary cortex (SEP) (AEP?) Long: Primary & Assoc. cortex (?) (VEP) Assoc. cortex (?) (SEP) (AEP?)	Inferior Parietal Lobule
Nomenclature	Vertex potential (P1N1P2N2) (Davis; Bancaud) (paradigm is auditory EP, but similar with any stimulus modality) Occipital VEP Parietal SEP	LPC (includes P300) SW CNV N400 RP

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## REFERENCES

- \* 1. Chiappa, K.H., Evoked Responses. Part 1: Pattern Shift Visual. <sup>Weekly Update</sup> Neurol. <sub>^</sub> Neurosurg. 2(8): 64-69, 1979.
- \* 2. Chiappa, K.H., Evoked Responses. Part 2: Brainstem Auditory. <sup>Weekly Update</sup> Neurol. <sub>^</sub> Neurosurg. 2(15): 129-134, 1980.
- \* 3. Chiappa, K.H., Choi, S.K., Young, R.R. Short-latency Somatosensory Evoked Potentials following Median Nerve Stimulation in Patients with Neurological Lesions. In: Clinical Uses of Cerebral Brainstem and Spinal Somatosensory Evoked Potentials. (ed) Desmedt, J.E.. pp, 264-281, 1980.
4. Lueders, H., Lesser, R.P., Klem, R. Pattern Evoked Potentials. In: Current Clinical Neurophysiology. (ed) Henry, C.E. Elsevier, pp. 466-525, 1980.
- \* 5. Goodin, D.S., Squires, K.C. Starr, A. Long Latency Event-related Components of the Auditory Evoked Potential in Dementia. Brain 101: 635-648, 1978.
6. Stockard, J.J., Stockard, J.E., Sharbrough, F.W. Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potentials in Neurology: Methodology, Interpretation, Clinical Application. In: Electrodiagnosis in Clin. Neurol. (ed) Aminoff, pp. 371-412, 1980.

\* Introductory papers (Handout)

Ev. Pot. Demo -

Visual -

Flasher - Reversed Checker Board } 1 Hz.  
Alternating fields  
Flasher

Recorded

Results

V

42-381 50 SHEETS 5 SQUARE  
42-382 100 SHEETS 5 SQUARE  
42-389 200 SHEETS 5 SQUARE  
MADE IN U.S.A.

