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**Electroencephalography (EEG) Information Sheet**



*Baby wearing an EEG net*

For the past decade, researchers at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development and King’s College London have been carrying out research using equipment that allows us to measure the naturally occurring electrical activity of the human brain. Such research is very important as it can teach us how and when the brain develops. It will also enable us to learn which areas of the brain are involved in different behaviours.

You may have seen doctors in hospitals or on television taking EEG readings of the natural activity of a person’s brain. This activity is produced by all of us as we think and can be recorded using passive sensors that are gently placed on the head. The equipment we use is known as the Geodesic Sensor Net system. Using this net, researchers are able to achieve a more detailed “map” of the working human brain.

This technique is completely safe, non-invasive and has allowed researchers and medical doctors to study our most complex organ, the brain, for over 60 years. Although the sensor net may look like something from a science fiction film, there is no risk associated with measuring brain activity. Nothing comes out of the sensors, it is like a thermometer that takes your temperature but cannot change your temperature.

If you are happy for us to proceed with EEG part of the study, this is what will happen:

* You will be with your baby at all times during the study.
* First, we measure your baby’s head circumference with a soft tape measure so we can choose the correct net size for your baby.
* Then we soak the net in warm, salty water with a bit of baby shampoo. This enables us to receive a good recording and also makes the sensors softer.
* Placing the net on a baby’s head is quick and simple as it goes on just like a swimming cap. While we are putting the net on we will play with your baby to keep him/her from focusing on the net. Generally babies are quite happy having the net on (it’s just like wearing a hat), but if your baby becomes fussy at any point, we can take the net off straight away.
* We will also give you a photograph of your baby wearing the net as a souvenir to keep.