

## FLASH VISUAL EVOKED RESPONSE DELAY IS ASSOCIATED WITH AGING

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The flash visual evoked response (FVER) is the basis of a putative diagnostic test for Alzheimer's disease [1]. We have shown that the P2 component of the FVER is delayed in Alzheimer's disease but not in other dementias or in healthy controls, and that the delay is significantly increased in the same patients after six months. If the P2 is to be used as the essential part of a diagnostic test, it is important to determine what other independent variables might affect its latency. Textbooks of evoked potentials agree that the latency of the pattern reversal evoked response (PVER) increases with advancing age, but contain no such information about the FVER. Because age-related changes occur in the rostral visual system (at least in the parts that serve the PVER) we studied normal healthy subjects to determine whether the P2 might also increase with advancing age. The P2 was measured in 42 healthy controls, ranging in age from 21 to 82 years. Thirty were women and 12 were men. Age was linearly related to P2 latency (latency =  $97.33 \pm 0.95$  ms, Pearson  $r = 0.549$ ,  $p = 0.0002$ ), which should be considered in future studies.

[1] Moore, N.C., Tucker, K.A., Jann, M.W., Hostetler, R.M., Coburn, K.L. *Prog. Neuropsychopharmacol. & Biol. Psychiat.*, 19 (1995), 403-410.

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