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EMG (Electromyography / Nerve Conduction)

Electromyogram, also known as EMG, and Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) help diagnose diseases of the nerves and muscles. These studies are usually performed together.

This test shows how well the body's electrical signals travel along the nerve pathway. This is done by applying a mild electrical shock over the nerve and recording how the nerve (sensory nerve) or muscle (motor nerve) reacts to the stimulus. These shocks cause a quick, mild, tingling sensation.

For this part of the test, a recording electrode (thin disposable needle) is inserted into several muscles to evaluate muscle function. A new disposable needle electrode is used for each patient. There may be a small amount of discomfort when the needle is inserted. A fine needle is inserted into various muscles at rest, and then you are asked to contract the muscle. The doctor will look and listen to the electrical signals as they travel from the muscle to the EMG machine. These signals are then interpreted by the doctor.

The complete test (NCS and EMG) lasts 40–60 minutes. You may return to your normal activities after the test. Preliminary results are given immediately after the test. The final results are ready within 24–48 hours.

Preparation for the Test

1. Bathe or shower prior to the appointment to remove any oil from your skin. **DO NOT** use body lotion or powder on the day of the test.
2. Please **BRING OR WEAR LOOSE FITTING CLOTHES** for the test.
3. Tell the doctor if you have a **PACEMAKER or DEFIBRILLATOR**, if you are taking **ASPIRIN or BLOOD THINNERS** (like Coumadin, Heparin, or Plavix), or if you have **HEMOPHILIA or other BLEEDING PROBLEMS**.

Cancellations

Your appointment is reserved especially for you. Should you need to cancel or change the date of your appointment, we require at least **48 hours notice** as a courtesy to other patients seeking appointments. We usually have a significant list of patients waiting to have an EMG study performed. Appointments not canceled within 48 hours or canceled on the same day of the appointment will incur a **\$100.00 fee** if we do not receive a call to cancel.

Thank you for being a valued patient and for your understanding.