

EMG PATIENT INFORMATION

EMG Phone number: 781-453-7730

You are scheduled to have an electromyography test (EMG/NCS, often just called EMG). An EMG is an examination of your nerves and muscles. It is usually a two-part evaluation consistent of (1) nerve conduction study (NCS) and (2) muscle examination (EMG).

The nerve conduction study is done by placing electrodes on your skin and giving a brief electrical pulse to a nerve. Several brief pulses of varying intensity are given. Measurements can then be made of how fast and how well a nerve sends messages. Nerves in the body, face, arms or legs may be tested this way.

Muscle examination testing is done by inserting a thin needle electrode into a muscle. No shocks are given, since the needle detects electrical activity produced by the muscle. This electrical activity is displayed and played over a loudspeaker. The physician can both see and hear this activity. The needles used for the examination are sterile and have never been used before; they are discarded after the examination is completed.

The time required to complete an EMG study varies and depends on the problem you have and the reason that your physician requested the examination.

The results of the EMG study are reviewed and an interpretation is made by the physician performing the examination. A report is placed in your medical record and sent to the physician that ordered the examination. The EMG study may provide information needed to help determine the type and severity of your disorder. Your physician who ordered the exam will discuss the results with you.

The EMG study is safe, although there may be some discomfort associated with the procedure. Complications, including local bruises, are minor, temporary and not serious. If you have questions about the examination, you should discuss them with the physician performing the EMG at the time of your appointment.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have a cardiac pacemaker, electrical stimulator or take a blood thinner, please notify the physician prior to beginning the examination. If you are on warfarin (Coumadin), it is required that you get an INR level 2 days prior to your EMG test. The INR can be done in our Coumadin clinic. You will need to get the INR order from the physician ordering your EMG. If this is agreeable, please notify the office staff at the time of scheduling. Under some circumstances it may be necessary to modify the examination.

Please bathe the day of or the night before your test and avoid creams, lotions and moisturizing soaps. Take your regular medications as usual.

Signature _____

Date _____

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