

What to Expect During Your EMG Test

Introduction

An electromyogram (EMG) is an examination of your nerves and muscles performed by a physician. It is usually a two-part evaluation consisting of a nerve conduction study and a muscle examination.

Preparation for EMG

Under most circumstances, there is no specific preparation. We ask that you do not apply body lotion prior to the examination as it may affect results. Please let us know if you have a cardiac pacemaker, electrical stimulator or take an anticoagulant, as we may modify the examination.

What to Expect

The nerve conduction study (NCS) is performed by placing electrodes on your skin that record the response of a nerve when we apply a brief electrical stimulus to it. Several brief pulses similar to static electricity are usually given and measurements are recorded.

These nerve responses are then measured to understand how fast and how well your nerves conduct electrical messages. Many nerves in the body, face, arms or legs may be tested in 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 activity is displayed on a screen and played over a loudspeaker so that we can both see and hear this activity.

Needles used for this part of the examination are sterilized and have never been used. They are discarded after the examination is completed.

The time required to complete an EMG varies depending upon the problem you have and the information requested by your physician.

A report of the results is formulated, transcribed and sent to those physicians involved in your health care.

Are There Any Complications?

While there may be some discomfort associated with the procedure, this test is safe. Complications, including local bruises, are minor, temporary and not serious. At the time of the procedure, we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Board-certified physicians in Neurology and Electrodiagnosis are available to perform your testing.

Appointments can be scheduled within two working days by calling our dedicated EMG line at 913-632-9820. A hand written report is available at the completion of the test followed by a written report within two working days.