



SOFT TISSUE COMFORT CENTER®

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What to Expect for NCS and EMG

You will be interviewed by the physician based upon the completed medical questionnaire which you will bring with you. You must also bring in the test results of studies which have already been performed, such as MRI and CAT scans, relevant x-rays, etc. The electrodiagnostic test consists of two parts.

Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS): To test the nerves, surface electrodes connected to an electromyographic (EMG) machine will be applied to the skin on your arms and/or legs. You will feel mild electrical impulses on the skin when your nerve is stimulated at specific points on the limb, and your muscle may twitch or your limb may move. The responses obtained by the EMG machine are evaluated to see whether the nerves are functioning normally or not. If there is nerve disease or damage, the test can tell how many nerves are involved, where involved, and the degree of involvement.

Quantitative Electromyography (QEMG): To test the electrical activity of the muscles, a new sterile fine monopolar pin electrode is inserted through the skin into the muscle. No electrical impulses are given in this part of the test. The physician can determine whether a muscle is functioning normally by seeing the wave forms on the EMG machine and listening to the sounds over a loudspeaker. QEMG can assess the site, extent, and the approximate timing of the nerve injury. The needles are discarded after the testing.

Instructions

Your skin should be clean and free of any creams, lotions, or oils. Please do not wear jewelry, as you will be asked to take off all your jewelry. You will be asked to change into a patient gown and lie down on an examination table for NCS and QEMG testing. You should eat and take your medications as usual, unless your doctor states otherwise. Please inform us ahead of time if you are on blood thinners, such as Coumadin or Plavix, although you can undergo NCS and eToims® you will not be a candidate for EMG. If you have a cardiac pacemaker you are not a candidate for electrical simulation studies.

Length of Test

The typical length of a complete electrodiagnostic study usually is about two hours. Additional time may be needed for the preparation of the testing and the post-test discussion. Due to the nature of the test, we are sometimes delayed; we ask for your patience. We will do our best to keep you informed and to accommodate your needs before and during testing. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AT LEAST THREE HOURS OF PARKING TIME.**



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Side Effects

There are no serious side effects from the EMG and NCS tests. Your muscles may feel somewhat sore for a few hours up to two days after the tests. You also may have slight bruising where the needle was inserted. There are no long-lasting after-effects. If you have any concerns following your testing, please call us at 215-387-0550.

Results

Your referring physician should receive the results of your study within 3 working days of your test date. If your medical report is needed on an urgent basis, we will fax your results to your physician. You will also have a fair idea of the results after the test. Please be advised that we cannot send out more than two reports of your QEMG results for you. If you wish to have more than two reports sent, we will send a copy of your report to you, so that you may distribute it.