

(Suspected) Diagnosis _____

Limbs tested _____

Your appointment is with:

Dr. _____

Date _____

Time _____ AM PM

Group Health

513.246.7012 for all offices

- Anderson** • 7810 Five Mile Road • Cincinnati, OH 45230
- Clifton** • 379 Dixmyth Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45220
- Kenwood** • 8245 Northcreek Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45236
- Mason Office** • 6010 Mason-Montgomery Road, Mason, OH 45040
- Springdale** • 55 Progress Place, Cincinnati, OH 45246
- Western Hills** • 2001 Anderson Ferry, Cincinnati, OH 45238
- Western Ridge** • 6949 Good Samaritan Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45247

Other Locations

- Good Samaritan** • 375 Dixmyth Avenue, 8th Floor Rehab Services, Cincinnati, OH 45220 • 513.559.2251
- Mayfield Kentucky** • 2845 Chancellor Drive, Crestview Hills, KY 41017 • 859.426.4200

EMG & Nerve Conduction Testing

Your doctor has ordered an electromyogram (EMG) and nerve conduction studies (NCS). This brochure outlines some common questions and answers concerning these tests, which are conducted by one of our physicians.

All of our physicians are board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, with training in electrodiagnostic medicine, including EMG and NCS. The testing generally requires less than one hour of the patient's time and a copy of the report can usually be provided to the patient at the end of the testing.

– conducted by –

Donald Carruthers, MD

Sanjiv Lakhia, DO

D. Scott Long, MD

Nancy McDonough, MD

Tammy Musolino, MD

Christine Smith, MD

Robert Whitten, MD

Steven Wunder, MD



Answers to common questions

1. What is an electromyogram (EMG)?

An EMG is a study of the electrical properties of the muscles and nerves of the body (usually to an arm or a leg). An EMG can help identify injury or disease of the area examined.

For example, a herniated disc in the lower back can pinch a nerve going to the leg, causing pain, numbness, tingling and weakness. The EMG can localize which nerve is pinched, how badly it is pinched and sometimes even how long the nerve has been injured.

2. What is the benefit of an EMG?

EMG and NCS can provide a great deal of useful information to your physician with few significant side effects. If abnormal, the test can help eliminate the possibility of serious injury or disease involving your nerves or muscles.

3. How is an EMG done?

The doctor places a single, small, Teflon-coated wire electrode (pin) into selected muscles in the area to be studied. The tip of the pin acts like an antenna, picking up electrical activity from the muscle and displaying it on a screen. The discomfort from the pin insertion is generally well tolerated by most people and should not limit any activity planned for later in the day. An EMG will not prohibit the patient from returning to work or recreational activity.

4. What are nerve conduction studies (NCS)?

Frequently, your doctor will request NCS in addition to an EMG. These studies determine how well and how fast your nerves conduct electrical impulses for sensation and movement. Nerve conduction studies are safe. They can be done in patients with pacemakers or implanted defibrillators.

5. Are there any side effects?

Occasionally the pin examination can cause a small bruise or sore spots. This is common in patients on blood thinners (such as Coumadin or Plavix) or anti-inflammatory medications (such as ibuprofen, naproxen or aspirin). Infections caused by the pin examination are exceedingly rare (given the natural defenses of the skin, the small pin size and the slick Teflon coating).

6. Can I have this test if I am pregnant?

Yes. It can be done during pregnancy without harm to your baby.

7. Do I have to fast or stop my medications?

No. While it is helpful to have a list of the medications you are currently using, you do not have to fast or stop any medications. Please do not apply creams or lotions on the affected areas the day of the test.

8. Can I drive after the test?

Yes. This test does not affect your ability to drive.

9. Can I return to work after this test?

Yes. This test does not affect your work status.

10. Does the EMG have a therapeutic value?

The EMG is a test, not a treatment. It should not be confused with acupuncture, which also uses a pin. Occasionally patients have reported decreased symptoms following the test, but this is unpredictable and is not a reason to perform the test.