

EMG and Nerve Conduction Tests

EMG, also called electromyogram, measures how your muscles and nerves work. The nerve conduction test measures how your nerves work in a different way. These tests measure electrical signals and may be done to check a nerve injury or diseases of your muscles or nerves. Most often these tests are done together, starting with the nerve conduction test.

Tell your doctor if you:

- Have bleeding problems
- Take blood thinner medicine
- Have hemophilia
- Have a pacemaker or other heart device

Arrive on time for your test. Plan on this test taking about 1 hour.

Day of your test

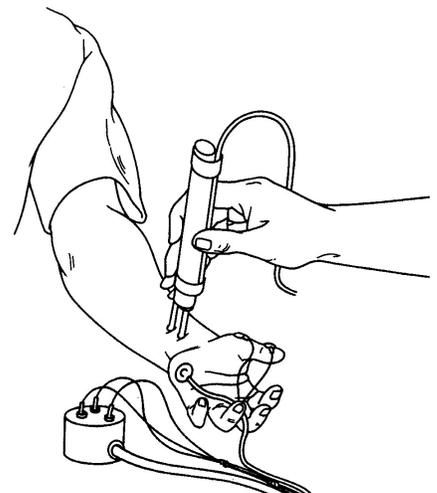
- Take your usual medicines.
- Bathe or shower so your skin is clean for the test, but do not apply any lotions, creams or oils to your skin until the test is done.
- Based on the problems you are having, the tests may be done on your arms and neck, or your legs and lower back, or both.
- Wear loose clothing. A tank top and shorts may allow the test to be done without you needing to change into a hospital gown.
- You may be seated in a chair or lie on a bed or table for the tests.

During the Nerve Conduction Test

- Pads are placed on your skin to measure how a nerve responds.
- Other pads will be placed over the nerve to give very small shocks. The shock causes a quick tingle and your muscle may twitch.
- Several nerves may be tested.

During the EMG

- A pin electrode is put through your skin and into your muscle. This is to measure electrical signals from your muscles.
- It may hurt when the pin is placed in your muscle.
- One muscle is tested at a time.
- Signals from your muscles show up on a screen and are heard over a speaker.
- You may be asked to tighten and release the muscle to see if the signals change.
- You may watch, listen, and ask questions during the test.



The doctor will talk to you about your test results.

You can return to your usual activity after the tests.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.