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.

Tell your doctor if you:

- Have bleeding problems
- Take blood thinners
- Have a pacemaker or other heart device

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

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 watch, listen, and ask questions during the test.

During the Nerve Conduction Test

- Pads are placed on your skin to measure how a nerve responds.
- It may hurt or tingle when a small shock is given.

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

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