

# MD Neurology NEUROLOGY

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## ELECTRODIAGNOSIS

Electrodiagnosis is an extension of the doctor's physical examination. The time required to complete the studies varies, but generally takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes. There are no restrictions relative to activities before or after the test and no permanent after effects. Electrodiagnostic studies can aid in evaluating weakness, numbness, pain and symptoms such as fatigue, cramps and abnormal sensations. The two main procedures used to study nerves and muscles are the needle electromyographic (EMG) examination and nerve conduction studies.

## EMG

This test allows the physician to analyze the electric activity in the muscles and determine whether the muscle is working normally by seeing the electric activity on a screen and listening over a loudspeaker. The test is performed by inserting a fine disposable needle electrode into selected muscles. Needle insertion may cause mild temporary discomfort. There are no injections or electrical shocks. **If you are on a blood thinner such as Coumadin, you should notify the doctor. Please discuss with the physician if you have a potentially transmittable disorder such as Hepatitis, HIV, etc.**

## NERVE CONDUCTION STUDIES

This test allows the physician to evaluate the electrical response of the nerve or muscle to determine if the nerve impulse is 1) Conducted normally, 2) At a slow speed, or 3) Not transmitted at all, suggesting damage to the nerve. This test is performed by placing electrodes on the skin and applying a brief electrical stimulus to one portion of a nerve. Nerve stimulation will cause a tingling sensation. It may be done to the motor and/or the sensory nerves.

## COST

The cost of this test can vary, depending on the number of tests performed. When necessary, we will contact the insurance company for pre-authorization. If you have concerns, please discuss them with the office staff.

**Shower or bathe, but please do not apply moisturizing cream or oil over the arm or leg to be studied. Please note oily skin interferes with test results. Please use non-moisturizing dry soap. Please remove all jewelry and watches prior to the test.** Wear loose clothes. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown. If you are unable to keep the appointment, please notify our office as soon as possible (leave message with the answering service after hours).