



## Electromyography and Nerve Conduction Study

An electromyography (EMG) is a test that checks the health of the muscles and the nerves that control the muscles. A nerve conduction study (NCS) tests the speed of electrical signals through a nerve. Both are specialized tests designed to detect neuromuscular disorders, such as nerve and muscle problems.

A physician will often request the EMG/NCS test to determine why you are experiencing tingling, numbness, weakness or pain. This test will help you confirm a suspected problem with the nerves or muscles, thereby allowing your physician to appropriately treat the problem.

### Before Your Test:

- Do not use oils, lotions or powders the day of the test.
- Please bring or wear loose fitting clothing, specific to the area you are having tested, for easier access to your extremities.
- Take your routine medications unless advised not to.
- This entire test will take between 30 and 60 minutes.

### Please let the physician know:

- If you have any bleeding problems
- If you have had any surgery to the area being tested
- Answers to any questions they may ask regarding your health during the test.

### What the test includes:

During the Nerve Conduction Study (NCS), mild electrical currents are applied to the skin of the area being tested. This is done to see how quickly the impulses travel between the nerves. Disposable electrodes will be attached to your skin on the area being tested. A stimulating electrode is held against the skin and an electrical impulse is sent through the nerve. The time difference between stimulation and response is recorded for analysis.

During the Electromyography (EMG), muscle function is assessed. To do this, a fine needle is placed under your skin into the muscle being tested. This is repeated in other muscles. The needle allows electrical activity to be measured. During the test, waveforms will appear on the computer screen which will show the physician how well your nerve or muscles work.

#### After Your Test:

- You may return to your normal routine
- Results of the EMG/NCS test will be sent to your referring physician within 3 – 5 days
- If this test was ordered by one of our neurologists, the physician will go over test results and further treatment, if needed, during the test.
- If the test was ordered by one of our neurosurgeons, please schedule a follow up appointment with them to discuss results and, if needed, any further treatments.

The neurologist will interpret the results of your exam and prepare a report. Your primary care doctor, or the doctor who ordered the EMG, will discuss the report with you at a follow-up appointment.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and for choosing Neurologic Associates as your trusted health care provider.