

Electromyography (EMG) Patient Information Guide

Description of Electromyogram (EMG)

EMG testing is a diagnostic examination of the peripheral nervous system, which includes nerve and muscle functions. The EMG test includes nerve conduction studies and muscle needle examination.

The nerve conduction studies are performed by placing electrodes on the skin, over certain nerves and muscles, and recording the responses when electrical impulses are applied to the nerve. The muscle needle examination involves direct recording of muscle activity at rest and during contraction by inserting a small needle electrode into various muscles.

Preparation

- The patient can take pain medications before the EMG test and bring a driver since the test may create muscle soreness.
- Please be on time to avoid possibly having to reschedule the procedure.
- At the time of an EMG appointment, the patient's skin should be dry and clean without lotions, oils or creams.
- Wear loose and comfortable clothing on the day of the test.
- The patient can take all medications as prescribed by his or her physician, unless special instructions have been offered. However, if the patient is on Blood Thinner such as (Coumadin, Warfarin, Apixaban, et.al), Mestinon or Botox, please notify us at the time the appointment is made.
- Please notify us of any pacemakers, deep brain stimulators, defibrillators, loop recorders or other medical devices.

There are no after effects of the EMG test and the patient can return to his or her usual activities immediately upon leaving the practice.

During the Procedure

During EMG, small pins or needles are inserted into muscles to measure electrical activity. The needles are different than needles used for injection of medications. They are small and solid, not hollow like hypodermic needles. Because no medication is injected, discomfort is much less than with shots.

- For your comfort, we will provide warm water to ensure you are not cold during the procedure.
- You will be asked to contract your muscles by moving a small amount during the testing.
- With nerve conduction studies, small electrodes will be taped to your skin or placed around your fingers.
- You typically will experience a mild and brief tingling or shock, which may be a bit unpleasant.
- The physician who administers the test will explain the procedure. Often muscle activity is monitored through a speaker during the test, which may make a popping or soft roaring noise.
- Testing times vary depending on the complexity of the test.

Results

It is our policy to handle all test results in a secure and confidential manner. A copy of the test report will be sent to your referring physician. If you would like to receive a copy of the report for your record, please inform our staff and we'll be happy to send you one. Most test results are available within one to two days of testing.

Appointment Cancellation Policy Agreement:

Baylor Scott & White Neurology Dallas is committed to providing all of our patients with exceptional care. When a patient cancels without giving enough notice, they prevent another patient from being seen.

Please call us at (469) 800-7680 by 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to your scheduled appointment to notify us of any changes or cancellations.

Late Policy:

In order to allow the time required for the procedure, we encourage you to be prompt. If you are more than 10 minutes late to your appointment, we will need to reschedule your appointment.

We value your time and this policy is to avoid having long wait times for our clinic. If you arrive past the grace period, we will reschedule the appointment.

Please sign below to consent to these terms:

Patient Signature (Parent/Guardian to sign if under 18)

Print Name (Patient)

Patient's Date of Birth

Date