

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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Date published: 21/10/2020
Review date: 21/10/2022
Ref: EIM/Neurophys/NCS&EMG/01

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Tests of the nervous system function

Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) & Electromyography (EMG)

A patient's guide



Introduction

In the clinical neurophysiology department we do various tests which record the electrical activity of the brain and nervous system. These tests are usually done at the request of a doctor to assist them in the diagnosis of your problem.

The nerve conduction study (NCS) and electromyography (EMG) tests

These tests examine the working of nerves and muscles. The NCS involves nerve stimulation with small electrical impulses, which can produce slight tingling sensations. The EMG is an examination of the muscles, using a very fine needle. There are no after effects. These tests may feel a little uncomfortable. The test takes between 20 to 40 minutes. Most patients will only require the NCS. Only some require the EMG as well.

Preparation for NCS and EMG tests

- Please do not use any oils or creams on the skin before the test.
- Please wear loose clothing.

Important medical information

If you are booked for an EMG test, please phone the department on 020 7288 5317 or 020 7288 5379 if you

- are on Heparin or Warfarin,
- are a haemophiliac or have a pacemaker fitted.

Results

All signals for these tests are recorded and stored on a computer. They are later analysed by a consultant and the results sent to the doctor who requested the test, usually within 7-10 days.

Transport

If you require hospital transport, please contact the transport department between 4 weeks and 2 days before your appointment on **0333 240 4909** to find out if you can apply for this service.

Understanding English

If you would like an interpreter to be with you for the test, you must contact the department at least ten working days before your test. This is so that we can book an interpreter for you.

Further information

If you have any questions please telephone clinical neurophysiology on:

020 7288 5317 / 020 7288 5379.

Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm.