

Neurosurgical Associates, P.C.

Robert B. Poczatek, M.D. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
800 St. Vincent's Drive North Tower Suite 700
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
Office 205.933.8981
Fax 205.930.0746

Your appointment is scheduled for: _____ at _____:

EMG and Nerve Conduction Testing

How does EMG/NCV work? Used to record the electrical activity of your peripheral nerves and muscle, electromyography (EMG) can detect neuromuscular disorders that affect skeletal muscle fibers, nerve impulses to the muscles, central nervous system, and voluntary muscle reflex activity. Nerve conduction velocity (NCV) can detect nerve compression or trauma by evaluating the speed of the conduction of motor and sensory fibers in the peripheral nerves.

With EMG/NCV testing, we are able to assess the condition of your nerves and muscles to check for damage. If any abnormalities are found, we can even gauge the severity and extent.

What to expect during the procedures. The entire test will take 30 - 45 minutes. For the NCV test, recording electrodes are taped to a particular nerve area like your arms, legs, hands or feet. A stimulating electrode is then placed over the nerve which sends a very small electrical current.

For the EMG test. Very fine needles are inserted into the muscles of your limbs and possibly your neck or back. These electrodes record your muscle's electrical activity during periods of activity and rest.

Are these tests painful? While some parts of the EMG may be uncomfortable, they are tolerated quite well.

Will any of my medications interfere with the test? If you are taking any blood thinners such as Aspirin, Plavix, or Coumadin please inform your doctor. Since blood thinners can increase your risk of bleeding or bruising, your doctor may suggest not taking this type of medication until after the procedure. All other medications are fine and should be taken.

On the day of your test, we ask you to do the following:

- > Wear loose - fitting clothing so we can easily test your arms, legs and back.
- > Do not apply any lotion or oil to your skin the day of your procedure.
- > Do not wear jewelry like bracelets, watches and rings.