

Patient Instructions for Electromyogram and Nerve Conduction Velocity

Your doctor has ordered an electromyogram (EMG). The purpose of this test is to determine if there is any damage or disease of the nerves after they leave the spinal cord in the neck or low back. The test will also detect certain muscle diseases.

There are two main parts to the test. The first involves a mild electric shock of very brief duration. The second part involves having a thin needle inserted into certain muscles of the leg, arm, back, or neck. How much is done will depend on the nature of your condition. While the test involves some discomfort, most, if not all, patients tolerate it quite well. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss them with your doctor.

The only preparation for the test is to have the skin free of any oil or lotion the day of the test.

The cost of the test can run up to \$3,000. If you have any payment concerns, please discuss these with the staff or your insurance company before the test.

Due to the amount of time we have to allow for this test, if you are unable to keep your appointment, please call our office 24 hours in advance or there will be a \$50 cancellation fee. A message can be left after hours by calling 713-777-4122 and pressing 1 for Dr. Hershkowitz's office or pressing 2 for Dr. Shirzadi's office.
