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DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Nurturing your health

ELECTROMYOGRAPHY AND NERVE CONDUCTION VELOCITY (EMG-NCV)



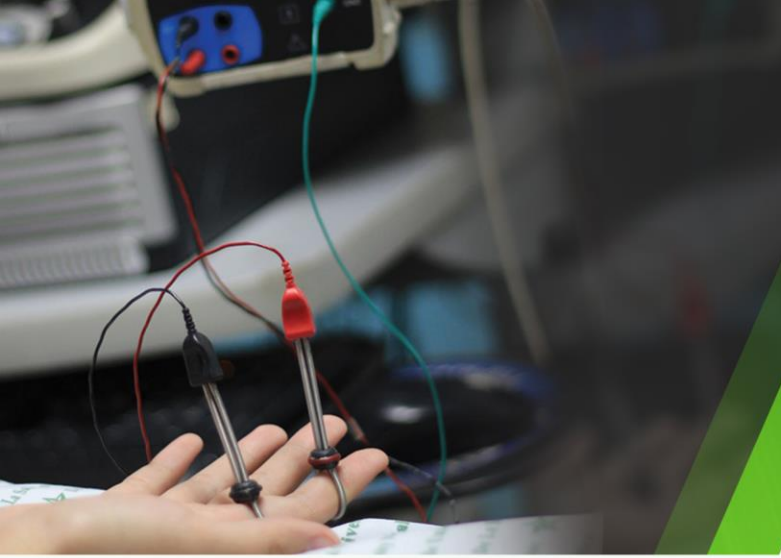
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What is an electrodiagnostic procedure? What is EMG-NCV?

Electrodiagnosis is a minimally invasive medical procedure that uses an electrical stimulus to examine the nervous and muscular systems of the body. Electromyography (EMG) and Nerve Conduction Velocity (NCV) are parts of electrodiagnostic studies.

How is EMG-NCV done?

This is a two-part test performed by a Rehabilitation Medicine doctor (electromyographer). The electromyographer applies an electrical stimulus (tiny electrical shocks) directly to a patient's nerves or inserts a sterile disposable needle in various muscles of the arms, legs, back or face (if needed). These may be a bit uncomfortable, but they are safe and have minimal side effects such as hematoma, muscle soreness and bruises.

The EMG-NCV machine will then record the responses of nerves and muscles to check for any abnormalities. In this way, the doctor can interpret and determine the type and location of the nerve or muscle and its severity to make a diagnosis and prognosis of the condition.

Are there necessary preparations for the procedure?

There is no special preparation for the test but it will be best if you inform your doctor about your present medications, and if you have indications of hypertension, skin problem or bleeding disorder.

Reminders:

- Wear a pair of shorts if the lower extremities or the back are to be evaluated, or a short-sleeved shirt if the upper extremities are to be examined.
- Do not apply any powder or lotion to the extremities that need to be tested.
- It is recommended to take a bath prior to the procedure.

Are there any after-effects that would prevent me from doing other activities after the procedure?

NO. You may feel some soreness, hematoma or notice some bruising in the muscles tested for a few days after the procedure. Otherwise, you should have no other symptoms. We suggest applying an ice pack for 3-5 minutes on the sore muscles 2-3 times per day.

How long does a complete EMG-NCV evaluation last and what does it consist of?

EMG-NCV evaluation consists of an initial interview, brief medical history, and a physical examination performed by the electromyographer. The procedure may last from 30-60 minutes, depending on the areas to be examined.

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