



Electromyography (EMG)



Changi
General Hospital
SingHealth



What is an Electromyography (EMG)?

Electromyography (EMG) is a test used to assess the health of the muscles and the nerves controlling the muscles. The results can reveal nerve or muscle dysfunction.

How is the test done?

There are two components to this test, mainly the **Nerve Conduction Study** and the **Needle Electrode Examination**. The whole duration will last about 30 to 60 minutes.

- **Nerve Conduction Study**

It is used to evaluate the functions of the nerve and to diagnose nerve damage. Surface electrodes will be placed on the skin, usually in the area where you are experiencing symptoms. Depending on how strong the stimulus is, you will feel electric currents of varying degrees.

- **Needle Electrode Examination**

This is usually done after the Nerve Conduction Test.

The Needle Electrode Examination is used to evaluate the function of the muscles by measuring the action potential produced by the muscles. It can also reveal defects in nerve function. A needle electrode is inserted into the muscle and the activity that occurs in the muscle during rest and voluntary contraction is measured. You may experience slight discomfort during the insertion of the needle. The muscle may also feel tender for a few days after the test.

What should I prepare before the test?

- Avoid applying lotions or creams on your arms and legs
- Avoid wearing tight clothing

Please inform your doctor if you are on any blood thinning medications, or if you have a pacemaker or implantable cardioverter defibrillator.

Is the test safe?

The test is essentially safe although you may experience some discomfort during the test.

Can I take the test if I am not feeling well?

You should not proceed with the test if you have a fever, cold, respiratory tract infection or feeling unwell.

Please call the CGH Appointment Centre at 6850 3333 to reschedule your appointment. Do check with your doctor if you have any concerns.



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CGH Appointment Centre

For appointments and enquiries,
please call: (65) 6850 3333

Operating hours:
8.30 am to 5.30 pm (Monday to Friday)
8.30 am to 12.30 pm (Saturday)
Closed on Sunday & Public Holiday

For more information, please visit www.cgh.com.sg



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Information is valid as of April 2021 and subject to revision without prior notice

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