



Electromyography

You are scheduled to have an electromyogram (EMG).

An EMG is an electrical examination of your nerves and muscles. This examination is performed by a physician. Dr. W. Raabe and Dr. D. Koning are neurologists specialized in performing this test.

The EMG is a procedure which consists of two parts. The first part consists of an examination of your nerves (nerve conduction studies). The second part consists of an examination of your muscles (electromyography).

The nerve conduction studies are done by placing electrodes on the skin and giving small electrical shocks to a nerve. Although this gives an unusual and surprising sensation, it is not usually considered unpleasant. Measurements can then be made of how fast and how well a nerve transmits messages. Nerves in the arms, legs or face may be tested this way.

For the examination of your muscles, a fine needle electrode is inserted into the muscle. No electrical shocks are given. The needle picks up the electrical activity present in your muscle. This electrical activity is displayed on a screen and over a loudspeaker so that the physician can see and hear it.

The time required to complete an EMG study varies depending on the reason for referral. Usually, it takes less than one hour to complete an EMG. However, on rare occasions it may take longer, two or three hours, to complete the study.

The results of the EMG are interpreted by Dr. Raabe or Dr. Koning. A report of the EMG is sent to your physician, the physician who referred you to have the EMG. This will provide your physician with information needed to determine the type and severity of your disorder. Your own physician will discuss the results of the EMG with you together with the results of other tests you are having.

Please Note: Your hands and feet must be warm for this test. Please tell the person rooming you if they are not.