

Electromyography (EMG) and Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS)

What is electromyography (EMG)?

- An Electromyogram (EMG) is done to help find diseases that are related to muscle tissue damage, damage to the nerve, or problems related to gaps that may be found between nerves and the muscles.
- Usually, an EMG is requested if your physician thinks that you might have a herniated disc.
- It is also requested to rule out ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
- It may also be requested for a certain illness called Myasthenia Gravis (MG).
- It will also help in finding weakness, paralysis, and even muscle twitching.

What is a nerve conduction study (NCS)?

- A nerve conduction study would be requested if your physician wants to know how impulses make your muscle react in certain ways.
- Remember that your nerves control the muscles in your body by sending an electrical signal which are called impulses.
- If your muscles do not react in a certain way, there might be a problem with the impulses being sent, hence, the request for such study.
- If one has nerve and muscle problems, it will cause the muscles to react and function abnormally.
- This study is requested to know if there is damage to the peripheral side of your nervous system, which means all the nerves that lead away from the brain, spinal cord, and smaller nerves going out to the different nerves.
- A sample illness that can be diagnosed from this test is carpal tunnel syndrome.