

Nerve Conduction Study

What is a Nerve Conduction Study? It is a test to measure how quickly your nerve impulses travel, using small electrical pulses on the surface of the skin. It can help to find out if a nerve is trapped or damaged.

How long will it take? Nerve Conduction testing usually takes between 45 and 60 minutes.

Pacemakers and Defibrillators:

The test may affect cardiac pacemakers or defibrillators and therefore we need to make additional arrangements for your test to be carried out.

Warfarin Medication:

It may not be possible to use a needle during the test if you take Warfarin to thin your blood. We may need to liaise with the doctor who referred you, before any appointment can be confirmed. We usually like to know your latest INR reading too.

It is very important to inform us if you have a cardiac pacemaker or if you take Warfarin to thin your blood. If you do not let us know your test may be cancelled when you arrive.

Please telephone immediately:

01305 255255

What should I do before I come?

- Make sure your hands and arms are clean and dry. Do not use any kind of hand cream, lotion or moisturiser for at least 48 hours beforehand
- Keep your hands warm using gloves and warm clothes as necessary
- Wear something with loose sleeves you can easily push up above your elbows
- Do not stop taking any medication prescribed by your doctor unless you have specifically been told to do so.

What happens at the appointment? A Highly Specialist Clinical Physiologist performs the test. Sometimes a Consultant Neurophysiologist may also see you. Your hands are checked and warmed a little more if necessary. You are asked to sit or lie down while small electrodes are placed on your skin (usually the hand, wrist or arm). Then, small electrical pulses are used to test different nerves; it feels like a sharp tingling or tapping sensation and may make your hand or arm muscles twitch.

Will it hurt? Most people find nerve conduction testing acceptable although some may find it a little uncomfortable.

Do I need to undress? You may be asked to remove items of clothing, especially if your sleeves are tight. You may be asked to remove wrist watches, bracelets and rings.

Can I drive? This test does not affect your ability to drive.

When will I get my results? Results are sent to the doctor who referred you for the test. This usually takes one to three weeks.