

# Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) for Ulnar Nerve Entrapment

An information guide



# **Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) for Ulnar Nerve Entrapment**

## **Why is the test being carried out?**

This test is performed by a clinical physiologist to determine whether or not you have a trapped nerve at the elbow.

## **What does the test involve?**

The studies are performed by passing small electrical currents through the skin and making recordings of the natural electrical signals further down the nerve or over a muscle. This is usually done with pads attached to the skin. The electrical pulses produce a strange tingling sensation which can be uncomfortable but should not be painful. Your muscles may have brief uncontrollable twitches.

The test takes about 20 to 30 minutes. There are no after effects and after the investigation you will be able to go home or to work. The results are analysed by the consultant and a report is sent to whomever referred you for the investigation within about 2 to 3 weeks.

## **Electromyography**

Depending on the nature of your problem, it may be necessary to record the naturally occurring electrical activity within your muscles. This is normally done with a fine needle inserted into the muscle and will be carried out by a consultant neurophysiologist. The small size of the needle means that it should not be too uncomfortable. As with all needles, this can sometimes leave a bruise and the muscles may feel sore for a while after the test

## **Why do I have to come to North Manchester General Hospital?**

Nerve conduction studies are not available at the other hospital sites within Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust therefore, although you may have originally seen a doctor at another hospital you have been referred to North Manchester General Hospital for this test.

## **What preparation is needed?**

It is helpful if your hands are as warm as possible. Please avoid hand lotions or creams. **Loose fitting clothing that can be rolled up to above the elbows is very helpful.** Bracelets and watches will need to be removed. If you are on treatment you should take your tablets at the usual time.

Please note that children/babies will not be allowed in the room where the test is being carried out therefore, if you need to bring a child with you, you must ensure that someone is with you that can supervise them.

## **Contacting us**

If you have any questions about the issues raised above, or any other concerns, please contact the Neurophysiology Department on 0161 720 2780.

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

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**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

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The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).



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