

Nerve Conduction Study (NCS)

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Overview

This noninvasive, outpatient exam is used to measure how quickly nerves conduct electrical signals through the body. NCS is a valuable technique for diagnosing nerve damage. If damage exists, NCS can help a physician find its source.

Preparation

In preparation for the exam, the patient is positioned comfortably on an examination table. Electrodes are placed on the surface of the skin at various locations.

Exam

During the exam, mild electrical currents are sent into the body through stimulating electrodes. These signals travel through the target nerve. After these signals have passed through the nerve, they are detected by recording electrodes. This provides a precise measurement of the speed and strength of the nerve's response to direct stimulation. The physician can use this data to diagnose nerve dysfunction.

End of Procedure

When the exam is complete, the electrodes are removed. The patient is allowed to go home. Because the exam is noninvasive, the patient will experience no bruising or soreness.

