

Laryngeal EMG (electromyogram)

Your doctor has ordered a Laryngeal EMG (electromyogram) for you. An EMG is the electrical study of your nerves and muscles. This study helps your doctor to find the cause of your symptoms and decide on the best treatment for you. You do not have to do anything special to prepare for the test. If you have question about the EMG, be sure to ask your doctor or nurse.

If you are taking a blood thinning medicine, please call us at **(608) 263-7247**. We may ask that you stop this medicine prior to arriving for the test.

Arriving for your EMG

Your EMG appointment is in the EMG lab, J module/ 2nd floor. You must stop and register 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment. Registration is on the main floor inside the clinic entrance on your right-hand side. After registration, continue on 'Main Street' through the H elevator lobby to the J lobby. Please check in at the Neurodiagnostics desk for your EMG.

What is a Laryngeal EMG?

You will be asked to lie on a bed with your head back and slightly over the edge of a pillow.

- First, a small metal disc (about the size of a fifty-cent piece) will be taped to your skin.
- After cleaning the skin over your voice box with alcohol, a thin electrode will be inserted through the skin into the muscle that controls voice production.
- The electrode looks like a needle, but it is solid and not hollow.
- Most often, four muscles will be tested, two on the left and two on the right side of your voice box.

- During the exam, you will be asked to make a sound like soft ees.
- You will hear a crackling speaker sound that comes from our EMG equipment. This is the electrical activity from your muscles which has been changed into sound waves.
- There are no electrical shocks during any of this exam.
- The study is somewhat uncomfortable because of the needle sticks.
- Care is taken to lessen any discomfort. But, we cannot use anesthetic medicines to reduce the discomfort. They would interfere with the EMG signal we get from your muscles.

What This Study Tells My Doctor

The signals tell us if you have a disease of the nerves or the muscles that control your voice box. Also, it tells us if the message that the brain sends to your voice box is normal.

The entire EMG takes about 15 minutes. After the test, we will send the results to your doctor.

The final report on your EMG will be sent to your primary doctor within a few days. He or she will discuss the results of the test with you and recommend treatment, if needed.

Who to Call

If you have any questions, or if you need to change the date or time of the test, please call the EMG lab at **(608) 263-7247**.

If you live out of the area, call **1-800-323-8942**. Ask for the EMG lab.

If you are a patient receiving care at UnityPoint – Meriter, Swedish American or a health system outside of UW Health, please use the phone numbers provided in your discharge instructions for any questions or concerns

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 6/2022 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#6937