Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for patients and carers

Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS)

Peripheral nerve entrapment and neuropathy screening
Neurophysiology

You have been referred for nerve conduction studies (NCS) at the Royal Preston Hospital. This leaflet will give you more information on what to expect from the test.

What are Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS)?

They are tests that check how the nerves are working. They involve placing small pads or rings on your skin and stimulating the nerves using small electrical impulses. The impulse is carried along the nerve and the response is recorded at another position further along the nerve.

Why am I having the test?

Nerve conduction studies are a well-established method of testing nerve function and can identify signs of trapped or damaged nerves.

Will I feel anything?

The small electrical impulse will produce an odd tapping or tingling sensation, which can be mildly uncomfortable, but is harmless.

Are there any risks or side effects?

Pacemakers, defibrillators, and other implanted stimulators that use modern bipolar implanted devices are safe. If you have an implanted device and are concerned, please contact the department for further advice. There are no reported side effects or risks.
It can be performed in pregnancy. If you are unsure about any aspect of the test, please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

How do I prepare for the test?

- Clean, bare and warm skin
- Bracelets, rings, and watches will need to be removed - we will test both hands/arms

- Loose fitting clothing that can be rolled above the elbow and/or knee (If your legs are being tested) is helpful to avoid the need to change into a hospital gown.
- Please avoid the use of hand-creams/lotions as they interfere with electrode contact
- Try to ensure that the affected area is warm by wearing gloves and/or socks if the weather is cold

On the day

You can take all medications as normal prior to the test unless instructed otherwise. Please bring an up-to-date list of medications with you to your appointment. You can eat and drink as normal.

What happens after the test?

The referrer will receive a written report around 2 weeks after your test and will contact you to discuss further treatment options if necessary. After the test you will be able to return to your normal daily activities, including driving.

How long does the test take?

The test usually lasts around 30 minutes.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Department of Clinical Neurophysiology
Royal Preston Hospital
Sharoe Green Lane
Fulwood Preston
PR2 9HT

Telephone: **01772 522559**
Email: neurophysiology@lthtr.nhs.uk

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk
www.nhs.uk
www.accessable.co.uk
www.patient.co.uk
www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware
https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

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Division: Medicine
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