



Pre-operative nerve tests for spinal cord monitoring patients

This test is carried out before your planned spinal surgery.

The test involves passing tiny electrical impulses through the skin on your legs or arms and recording the response further along the nerve. This is done using disposable sticky pads.

It produces a tingling sensation but is not painful. There will also be some brief muscle twitches.

It is also necessary to record the brain's response during these muscle twitches. This is done by attaching small silver discs to the scalp with a special paste which washes out easily. The test will not be felt in the head.

The height and weight of patients aged 16 years or under will be required for these tests. Please bring this information with you. **Patients under 16 years of age need to be accompanied by an adult (parent/carer with parental responsibility).**

There will also be a short list of questions about your past medical history to answer in order to decide suitability for monitoring during your surgery.

Please be aware that your hands and feet need to be warm and free from creams and lotions.

Please wear loose clothing that can be easily rolled up above the knees and elbows. No other preparation is needed and there are no other side effects from the test.

The results of your test will be sent to the doctor who referred you for this test.

If you need any further information, please ring the department on the following number:

0121 371 6420
(Monday to Friday, 08:30–16:00)

Neurophysiology
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2GW
Telephone: 0121 627 2000

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk