

# Neuromuscular Research Center

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## PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET FOR MUSCLE BIOPSY

A muscle biopsy is a procedure involving the removal and examination of a piece of muscle tissue. This tissue is sent to a pathologist for examination.

### **A muscle biopsy may be performed for many reasons, including the following:**

- To distinguish between nerve and primarily muscle disorders
- To identify specific muscular disorders such as immune mediated myositis, genetic muscle diseases or muscle diseases caused by toxic agents.
- To identify metabolic defects of the muscle
- To diagnose diseases of the connective tissue and blood vessels
- To diagnose infections that affects the muscles.

### **The risks are minimal and may include the following:**

- Infection
- Bleeding at the site
- Bruising of the area
- Damage to the muscle tissue or other tissues in the area.

The muscle biopsy does not increase your weakness although you may have discomfort at the site for some time. An area of numbness over the site of the biopsy may also develop.

Sedation is given where you will not be aware or be awake during the procedure. The procedure is done as an 'out patient' surgery, with an anesthesiologist. Dr. Sivakumar will perform the muscle biopsy.

The interpretation of the study of the material removed will take approximately

**four weeks** and will help your physician find a cause for your symptoms. However, the possibility of a non-diagnostic biopsy is always present.

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