

# Neuromuscular Research Center

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## PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET FOR NERVE BIOPSY

A nerve biopsy is the removal of a small piece of a nerve for examination. This sample is then examined using a microscope. Individual nerve fibers may also be examined.

A nerve biopsy may be performed to help distinguish between demyelination( destruction of parts of the myelin sheath covering the nerve) and axon degeneration (destruction of the axon portion of the nerve cell), to identify inflammatory nerve conditions or to confirm specific diagnoses.

### **The risks may include:**

- Discomfort after the procedure
- Infection
- Permanent pain from the nerve biopsy.

Sedation is given where you will not be aware or be awake during the procedure. The procedure is done as an outpatient surgery, with an anesthesiologist. Dr. Sivakumar will perform the nerve biopsy. As a result of a nerve biopsy, you will have a small area of numbness on the side of the foot with some degree of pain. The numb area will shrink over time. You may also develop sensitivity to touch as the nerve tries to re-grow.

The interpretation of the study of the material removed will take **four to six weeks** and will help your physician find a cause for your symptoms.

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