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**Lab Dept:**                      **Anatomic Pathology**

**Test Name:**                    **NERVE BIOPSY**

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:**            Pathology order form(s) must be filled out and submitted with the specimen.

**Synonyms:**                      Biopsy, Nerve

**CPT Codes:**                    Varies bases on specimen submitted and physician request:  
  
88300 – Level I, Surgical pathology, gross examination only  
88305–90 – Level IV, Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination  
88313–90 – Special Stains, Group II  
88348–90 – Electron microscopy, diagnostic  
88362–90 – Nerve teasing preparations

**Test Includes:**                A battery of histochemical stains and electron microscopy (EM) when indicated.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:**            Useful for evaluating neuropathy.

**Lab Testing Sections:**        Anatomic Pathology - Sendouts

**Referred to:**                    Hennepin County Medical Center  
Neuromuscular Laboratory: 612-873-2175

**Phone Numbers:**            MIN Lab: 612-813-6280  
  
STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:**            Monday - Friday

**Turnaround Time:**            14 days

**Special Instructions:**        Specimen must be received by 2:30 PM on the day of the procedure. Please notify Histology/Pathology Laboratory 24 hours prior to specimen collection.

A biopsy of the sural nerve from the distal third of the leg or near the ankle leaves no significant defect. Some numbness along the outer aspect of the foot following the biopsy is possible, but tolerable, in most patients.

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***Specimen***

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Specimen Type:</b>       | Tissue  |
| <b>Container:</b>           | Saline-moistened gauze and plastic specimen container with 3% glutaraldehyde  |
| <b>Draw Volume:</b>         | 2 nerves up to 1 cm in length   |
| <b>Processed Volume:</b>    | Same as Draw Volume   |
| <b>Collection:</b>          | Biopsy may be performed under local or general anesthesia. If using local anesthetic, do not directly infiltrate the area to be biopsied. Avoid the use of forceps. To avoid any injury of the specimen it should be handled very carefully. Any squeezing of the nerve may cause damage and produce artifacts. Send one piece of nerve in saline-moistened gauze. Recommended size: up to 1 cm in length. Send a second piece of nerve in room temperature 3% glutaraldehyde fixative, labeling the proximal end of the nerve. |
| <b>Special Processing:</b>  | See Collection  |
| <b>Patient Preparation:</b> | Physician preference  |
| <b>Sample Rejection:</b>    | Improperly collected specimen   |

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***Interpretive***

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Reference Range:</b> | Interpretive report  |
| <b>Critical Values:</b> | N/A  |
| <b>Limitations:</b>     | N/A  |
| <b>Methodology:</b>     | EM and staining techniques   |
| <b>References:</b>      | <a href="#">Hennepin County Medical Center Laboratory</a> January 2018 |