



Resumption of Routine EDX Testing during COVID-19

Pushpa Narayanaswami, MD

Financial Disclosure

- Pushpa Narayanaswami has received grant support from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Momenta Pharmaceuticals, and provided consultation for Alexion, Momenta and Argenx

Guidance for Resumption of Routine EDX Testing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Muscle and Nerve 2020

Urvi Desai¹, MD, Charles D. Kassardjian², MD, MSc, David Del Toro³, MD, Nida Gleveckas-Martens⁴, DO, Jayashri Srinivasan⁵, MBBS, PhD, Deborah Venesy⁶, MD, Pushpa Narayanaswami⁷, MD and the Quality and Patient Safety Committee of the AANEM

¹. Carolinas Neuromuscular ALS MDA Clinic, Atrium Health, Charlotte, North Carolina

². Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine, St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

³. Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

⁴. Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago IL

⁵. Lahey Hospital Medical Center/Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA

⁶. Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

⁷. Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/ Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Patient Scheduling

- Lengthen intervals between and stagger appointments
- Extended hours
- Prioritize patient scheduling based on clinical information
- Instruct patients to call for COVID-19 symptoms
- Consider contactless collection of co-payments

Poll: Which Patients are you seeing for EDX?

- A) All patients, EXCEPT confirmed COVID positive, regardless of urgency.
- B) All patients, INCLUDING confirmed COVID positive, regardless of urgency.
- C) Only “urgent” cases.
- D) None. We are still closed.

Patient Arrival & Registration

- Monitor and limit point of entry – enforce social distancing
- Have patients wait in car or parking lot until scheduled appointment
- 6-ft distancing in waiting areas
- Clearly label discrete entrances and exits – consider escorts
- Only allow accompanying persons if absolutely necessary (e.g., child, cognitively impaired)

Safety & PPE

- All patients wear facemasks and perform proper hand hygiene
- All HCP w/ patient contact wear PPE
 - Patients not suspected of having COVID-19: clean non-sterile gloves, surgical mask, and goggles or face shields (disposable N95 or equivalent acceptable)
 - High risk EDX studies (e.g. facial studies, laryngeal EMG) isolation gowns and N95 masks or an approved equivalent are additionally recommended
- Educate HCP on proper procedure for donning/doffing PPE

Poll: What type of mask are you using in standard EDX testing with patients NOT suspected of COVID

- A) HCP wear SURGICAL mask and goggles or face shields
- B) HCP wear N95 (or equivalent) mask and goggles or face shields
- C) Other- e.g., cloth mask
- D) None

Patient & HCP Screening

- Daily screening of all HCP w/ direct patient contact
- Screen all patients day prior to appointment
 - Consider checking temps at entrance to hospital or clinic
 - Consider conducting COVID-19 testing of all patients 24-48 hours prior to appointment – especially with higher risk studies
 - Have protocol in place for urgent managements of patients who report symptoms or test positive
- COVID-19 positive patients
 - Require evidence that infective phase has passed

Outpatient EDX Studies

- Limit # of HCP in EDX Lab
- Plan study efficiently to minimize duration
- Use preassembled kit for each study (consider back-up kit in room)
- Strongly consider disposable electrodes
- Use disposable markers and disposable tape measure (or clean & disinfect after each use)
- Use disposable heating packs or alternative method such as heating lamp
- Cover patient with sheet/blanket to minimize direct contact

Poll: Are you using disposable electrodes?

A) Yes

B) No

Inpatient EDX Studies

- If not suspected of COVID-19, follow outpatient recommendations
- Suspected or confirmed COVID-19:
 - Determine if alternative, less-risky diagnostic tests an option and delay EDX if possible
 - If EDX testing deemed necessary:
 - PPE: isolation gowns, N95 masks or an approved equivalent mask, face shields or goggles and gloves
 - Perform study at patient bedside if possible (avoid transport)
 - Only essential EDX personnel
 - Perform study at end of day if possible

Cleaning / Disinfection

- EDX equipment:
 - Follow manufacture guidance – clean and disinfect machine, re-useable cables and electrodes after each procedure (don't use bleach)
 - Consider plastic covers
 - Minimize/remove non-essential objects in lab
- EDX lab:
 - EDX staff may need to clean between each procedures if custodial services not available
 - Use soap and water to clean surfaces prior to disinfection where feasible
 - Wipe down all hard surfaces (buttons, light switches, door handles, etc.)
 - Place “cleaned and sanitized” sign on door after cleaning

Poll: What cleaning/disinfecting protocols are you using in the lab?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- A) Plastic covers for EMG machines
- B) Using soap and water to clean hard surfaces and then disinfecting entire room after each patient
- C) Removal of all cloth and/or unnecessary furniture and objects in testing room
- D) Placement of “cleaned and sanitized” (or similar) signage after each patient

Training: Fellows & Residents

- Balance training requirements and safety – minimize exposure risk
- Provide trainees with all PPE and train on use
- Follow social distancing when reviewing trainee reports
- Utilize supplemental forms of training such as EDX case discussions

Poll: How are you handling EDX training of Residents & Fellows?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY:

- A) Not having residents or fellows perform ANY EDX testing
- B) Reducing the number of ALL EDX testing residents or fellows are performing
- C) Not having residents or fellows perform ANY HIGH RISK EDX testing (either due to the nature of the study or patient is COVID-positive)
- D) Reducing the number of HIGH RISK EDX testing (either due to the nature of the study or patient is COVID-positive) residents or fellows are performing

Patient Care

- Consider discussing benefits of EDX testing vs. potential risks of COVID-19 when obtaining informed consent.
- Reassure patients about cleaning and disinfecting
 - Consider posting protocols in rooms

AANEM Resources

- Dedicated COVID-19 website: <https://www.aanem.org/Practice/COVID-19-Guidance>
- Post practice questions to AANEM Connect: <https://www.aanem.org/Membership/Member-Portal/AANEM-Connect>
- Email questions to: policy@aanem.org