

Summary of diagnostic evaluation for causes of painful neuropathy

Date: _____ / _____ / _____
Patient name and MGH number: _____
Person filling out this form: _____

People with painful peripheral neuropathy should be evaluated for underlying treatable causes. These may require separate treatment, which in some cases can improve the neuropathy. Patients should make sure that they are not taking high doses of vitamin B₆ or potentially neurotoxic medications (e.g., chemotherapy) and that they are not being exposed to heavy metals, such as arsenic, or industrial neurotoxins. Patients should find out whether they have other family members with similar symptoms or who have been diagnosed with neuropathy. Please ask your physician to let us know which of the tests below have been performed and when. Normal results can be indicated by writing "Normal" and the date. Please return this form to us for inclusion in your MGH chart. You can keep a copy for your own records or for your physician.

Tests for underlying causes of painful small-fiber neuropathy

CBC.....
ESR.....
Hemoglobin a1c.....
Renal function.....
LFTs.....
B₁₂ levels (or methylmalonic acid and/or homocysteine).....
Folate levels.....
SPEP and IPEP (serum electro- and immunophoresis).....
UPEP (urine protein electrophoresis).....
Thyroid functions.....
ANA (for Sjögren's syndrome).....
Other.....

Tests to consider if there is a particular medical concern:

HIV (test for AIDS).....
Lyme titers.....
Fasting glucose tolerance test.....
Other.....

Other tests that may have been performed:

Electromyography (EMG).....
Nerve Conduction Studies.....
Evaluation of Autonomic Function.....
Quantitative Sensory Testing.....
Other.....

Skin biopsy:

Examination of nerve endings.....
Amyloid.....
White cells.....
Other.....

Please bring this form to your MGH clinic appointment. You may also mail or fax it to:

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