

PATIENT EDUCATION: SUDOSCAN

What is SudoScan? SudoScan is a device that tests for neuropathy.

How is the test done? Patient stands on a sensor plate, and places their hands on another sensor plate. They stand still for two minutes, and the machine does the work.

How does it work? The SudoScan device emits a tiny pulse of current to the hands and feet. The current is painless, but strong enough to stimulate the sweat glands to release chloride ions. The device then measures the levels of chlorine ions.

What does the test tell my doctor? Sweat glands are innervated by something called c-fibers. When the c-fibers are present and functioning properly, sweat glands are activated and then they release chloride ions. The data from the test shows the levels of chloride ions in both hands and feet. From this data, your doctor can determine the degree of neuropathy and develop a treatment plan for the neuropathy. As treatment progresses, the test can be repeated at three months to check on the effectiveness of the treatment. It can be repeated annually to check for development or progression of neuropathy.

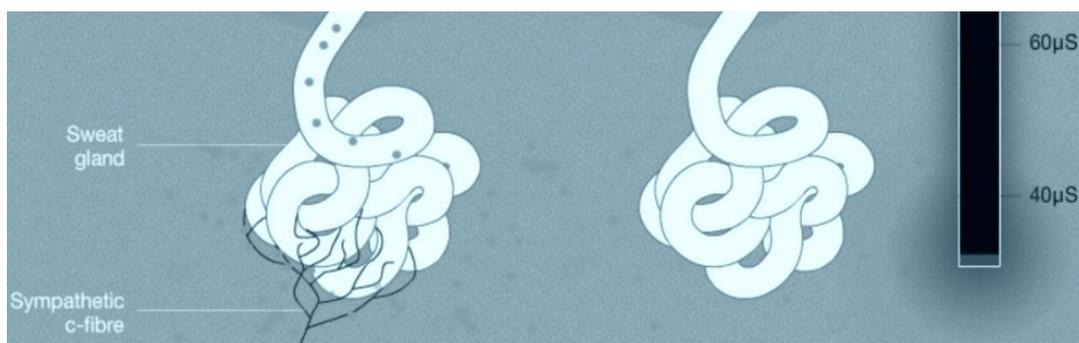


Is it painful? The pulses are so small that it is not painful.

When will I get the results? A preliminary test result is printed immediately after the test. You may take a copy of your results. The final interpretation of the test results is available within a week.

Why should I have this test? Neuropathy is a serious condition. The SudoScan offers your doctor a way to measure the presence of neuropathy, and to track its progression. From that, he can come up with a treatment plan to help relieve your symptoms. Up until now, the most exact test for neuropathy was a nerve fiber biopsy. While usually tolerated well and safe for patients, biopsy does pose the possible risk of infection. That threat is non-existent with the SudoScan. This test is non-invasive, pain-free, and fast.

Is it expensive? Nerve testing using the SudoScan is a covered benefit of Medicare and most private insurance plans. As always, our staff is available to discuss your insurance benefits and coverage for this test.



(Left) Proper c-fiber function, stimulating sweat glands to produce chloride ions. (Right) No c-fibers, therefore no chloride ions, indicating neuropathy.

This is what the SudoScan measures.

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