



Covid-19: Policy for Investigation of ITU neuro-myopathy

The early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic forced a critical examination of the utility of many referrals. Performing EMG examination of patients in critical care environments was seen as particularly high risk to the practitioner. The condition known variously as ITU or CCU neuropathy or myopathy is usually evident as onset of weakness *after* admission to ITU, or difficulty of neuromuscular origin in weaning from a ventilator. Readily available EMG techniques add little to the clinical diagnosis and make no difference to treatment so practitioners stopped performing EMG. This position was ratified at a BSCN Council meeting on 18th June 2020.

Standard A: EMG examination should not be performed for the confirmation or prognostication of ITU neuro-myopathy whilst patients remain in a critical care environment.

Council made no decision about restarting EMG for this indication should the Covid-19 risk decrease.



Electronically Signed

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