WHY CHOOSE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH?

+ **Board certified neurologists** specializing in cutaneous innervation
+ **Personal attention**—speak to qualified lab professionals via phone or email
+ **Fast turnaround time** for results
+ **Online access** to clinical reports via EPIC Link
+ **No charge for biopsy kits** and return shipping
+ **Experienced technical staff** and rigorous quality control ensure accurate results

CUTANEOUS NERVE LABORATORY

CONTACT US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cutaneous Nerve Laboratory</th>
<th>Phone: 801.585.2461</th>
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[Image of nerve tissue showing normal and neuropathy conditions]
WHAT IS SMALL FIBER NEUROPATHY?

Small fiber neuropathy (SFN), or peripheral sensory neuropathy, affects small caliber nerve fibers. This disease most often presents as tingling, burning or numbness in the arms, legs or feet. Patients may also experience sensitivity to temperature (heat or cold) and/or autonomic dysfunction.

Common causes of SFN include: diabetes, HIV, alcohol or drug abuse, and use of neurotoxic agents. Often, the cause of SFN is unknown.

WHY SKIN BIOPSY?

The terminal endings of small nerve fibers in the epidermis are often the first areas to degenerate, with distal to proximal gradients. Small fiber neuropathy may involve single nerves (mononeuropathy) or many nerves (polyneuropathy), often in a length dependent fashion.

Cutaneous nerve evaluation has been used clinically since 1993 and is well tolerated by patients. It is a sensitive, site directed, repeatable technique that reveals both acute and chronic forms of sensory neuropathy.

BIOPSY SITES

Control data for adults are available at the distal leg, distal and proximal thigh regions.

This test is easily performed in a physician’s office or clinic with resultant biopsies being sent to the University of Utah for processing.

Care must be taken to prevent crushing the biopsy when removing it from the patient.

SKIN BIOPSY RESULTS

The biopsies are sectioned and stained with anti-PGP9.5 antibody which is a neuronal specific marker. This allows the reading physician to analyze the intra-epidermal sensory nerves. Clinical diagnosis is based on the density of these nerves and a report is generated and sent to the referring physician.

ORDER A SKIN BIOPSY KIT

Biopsy kits can be ordered by calling the laboratory at 801-585-2461 or via email: biopsy@hsc.utah.edu.

The kits include biopsy tools, specimen vials, a pre-paid return shipping label, and instructional paperwork.