

How to use Neuropen®

Rest the patient's foot on a stable, padded surface. Ensure they are comfortable and free from distraction. Explain the testing procedure to them and ask them to look away when the test is being performed. Ask them to say 'yes' or 'now' when they believe they can detect the stimulus.

Suggested sites to be tested are shown in the diagram and should be tested at random.

Suggested Neuropathy Testing Sites



Assessing protective touch/pressure sensation (Monofilament Test)

1. Fully extend the monofilament by sliding the button to the end of the device until a click is heard. Wipe the end of the monofilament with an alcoholic wipe or antiseptic solution.
2. Press the monofilament at a 90° angle to the skin surface (figure 1) and increase the pressure until it bows (figure 2). Hold in position for 1-2 seconds.
3. Patients unable to detect the monofilament are at a seven-fold risk of foot ulceration.



Figure 1

Assessing protective pain/sharpness sensation (calibrated Neurotip test)

This is a calibrated and sterile pain/sharpness test. The spring mechanism is calibrated to exert a force of 40g, which will help to identify patients with a loss of pain sensation.

1. Take an unused Neurotip and hold by the cap. Press it firmly down into the Neurotip holder of the Neuropen as far as it will go. Twist off the Neurotip cap.
2. Press the Neurotip at a 90° angle to the skin surface until the marker is within the 40g marker zone (figure 3). Hold in position for 1-2 seconds (figure 4). Ask the patient if they can detect a sharp sensation.
3. Remove the used Neurotip from the Neuropen and discard into a sharps container.

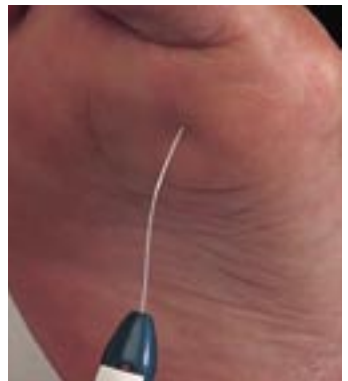


Figure 2

Comparative Sensory Testing

Neuropen can be used to assess whether the patient can distinguish between a touch stimulus (monofilament) and a sharp stimulus (Neurotip).

The patient should be randomly tested with either the Neurotip or the monofilament by inverting the pen and asking the patient to identify which stimulus they feel. A normal individual will easily discriminate between these sensations - an inability to distinguish identifies patients at risk of peripheral neuropathy.

These instructions are intended as a guide only. Full instructions and precautions are supplied with the Neuropen and must be read in full before use.



Figure 3



Figure 4