

Table 2**Diagnostic tests**

Test	Comment
ICE test	Crushed ice in a latex glove is placed over closed eyelids for 2 min Positive if ptosis improves by 2 mm Easy to perform but only useful if patient has significant ptosis Sensitivity 90-95%. Specificity near 100% ⁹
Edrophonium	IV acetylcholinesterase inhibitor injected and patient examined for demonstrable improvement in symptoms (e.g. ptosis) Risk of bradyarrhythmias calls for availability of immediate atropine and full resuscitation facilities. Now rarely performed Sensitivity 60-95% ¹⁰
Clinical neurophysiology	Routine nerve conduction studies and electromyogram (EMG) are typically normal Repetitive nerve stimulation elicits a decrementing compound muscle action potential. Sensitivity above 50%, but lower in ocular MG Single fibre EMG looks for an increase in temporal variability of action potentials arising from individual muscle fibres. Sensitivity 82-90% ¹⁰
Immunology	85% of patients with MG are positive for AChR antibodies 40-70% of remainder are positive for MuSK antibodies Both serological tests are highly specific
Mediastinal imaging	When a diagnosis of MG is made, the patient should have CT/MRI of thorax to look for thymic enlargement or a tumour