Nerve and muscle biopsies are indicated in the evaluation of a variety of conditions, including myopathies, myositis, and neuropathies, making these procedures very common. The major complications associated with nerve and muscle biopsies include postoperative nerve pain and non-diagnostic biopsy. The incidence of new nerve pain, which can be extremely debilitating, is reported to be as high as 30% following nerve biopsy. Furthermore, most series estimate that the rate of non-diagnostic muscle and nerve biopsy is approximately 50%.

At the Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery, we are working to develop new strategies to reduce the complications associated with muscle and nerve biopsy and to improve diagnosis in order to maximize the value of these procedures. Current routes of investigation include the use of stimulated Raman spectroscopy microscopy as a novel means of analyzing muscle and nerve specimens and exploring the use of allograft nerve for repair in order to reduce the incidence of neuroma formation and neuropathic pain following nerve biopsy.
If you are interested in discussing this research further, Thomas J. Wilson, MD, co-director of the Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery, would be happy to discuss our findings, the future directions, and the needs for these projects. You can call (650)723-0320 or email wilsontj@stanford.edu.

**SUPPORT THIS WORK**

Philanthropic support would allow an acceleration of this groundbreaking research seeking to improve the lives of those needing a muscle or nerve biopsy for diagnosis.

For information on how to make a gift to the Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery, please contact Allie Gregorian, Senior Associate Director of Development, by phone (650)724-9910 or email, allie.gregorian@stanford.edu