SFEMG as a Measure of NMT

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Disclosure

None

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1. Understand physiology and pathophysiology of neuromuscular transmission.
- 2. Acquire the knowledge to identify normal and abnormal jitter as well as blocking.
- 3. Appreciate the technical differences between the voluntary and stimulated SFEMG.
- 4. Learn how to conduct both types of studies in assessing diseases of neuromuscular junction.
- 5. Recognize the value and limitations of SFEMG as a physiologic study in the clinical context.

KEY MESSAGES

- 1. Single fiber needles with a small lead off surface record from individual muscle fibers.
- 2. Concentric needles also work, if used with a high pass filter to attenuate distant activities.
- 3. Stimulated SFEMG alleviates the need of a paired discharge for jitter measurements.
- 4. Abnormal jitter and blocking, though non-specific, implicates the neuromuscular junction.
- 5. SFEMG, like other electrodiagnosis, constitutes an extension of the clinical examination.



From Kimura & Kohara, 2010





Fiber 1 MCD 111 µs block 4% Fiber 2 MCD 709 µs block 23%

From Kimura & Kohara, 2010

1 ms

100 µV



From Kimura & Kohara, 2010







Modified from Stalberg, et al, 2010





From Elmquist, et al, 1964



From Dahlback, et al, 1970



From Bloom & Fawcett, 1975