

# IN HE NAME OF GOD

- **Needle Electromyography (EMG)**
- **In according: Electrodiagnostic Medicine Dumitru,2002**
- **Presentation By:**
- **Dr.Eslamian F,MD**
- **Associate professor of PM&R**
- **Tabriz University of Medical Sciences**





# Electromyography



©NIMG 2002



# \* PREPARATION

## ○ Patient

- to gain confidence and cooperation of patient, physician should **inform the patient** as to the reason of performing the needle exam
- به بیمار نگوید دردناک نیست در حالیکه درد واقعا وجود دارد
- نشان دادن نیدل به بیمار توصیه نمیشود زیرا دیدن طول نیدل درد را به بیمار القا می کند
- بیشتر وقتها به جای سوزن گفتن کلمه ای مانند سنجاق اضطراب بیمار را کاهش می دهد
- بعد از خروج نیدل با گاز یا پنبه پک کنید و وسایل اغشته به خون را از معرض دید بیمار دور کنید
- تعداد تقریبی نیدل عضلات را قبل از انجام بگویید
- بگویید که یکی دو روز درد مختصری خواهد داشت و بعد رفع میشود



## **the examiner**

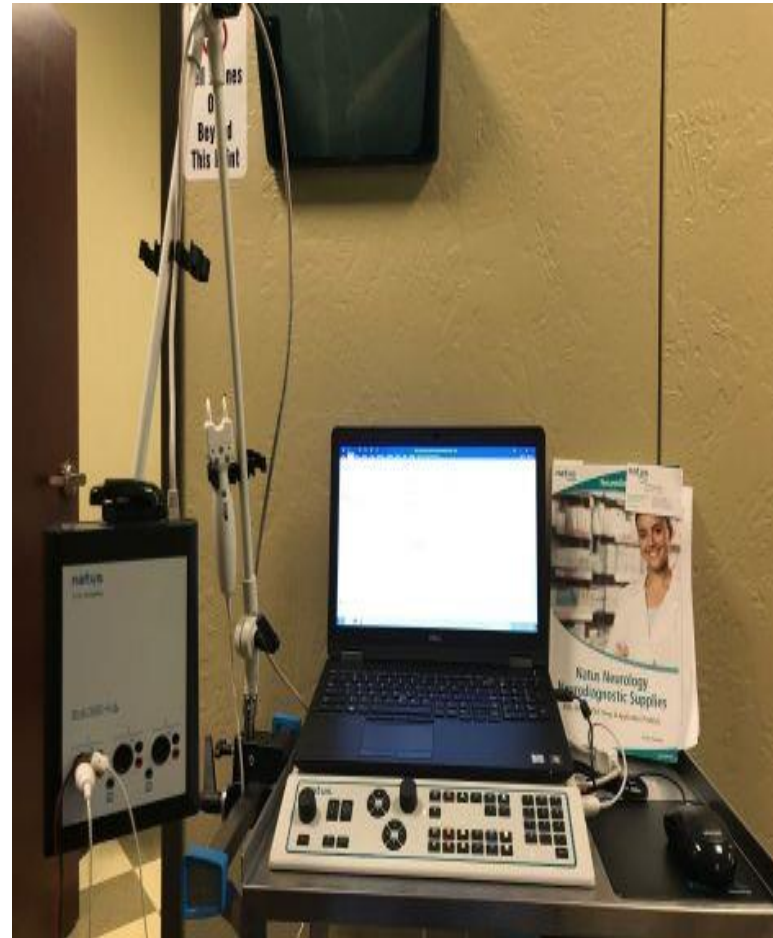
- is a medical consultant
- dynamic process rather than routine process
- needles must be disposable
- standard old non disposable needle are also acceptable
- those should be kept in hypochlorite Na 15 min then rinsed clean and then sterilized.
- Distraction technique for entrance



### 3. PREPARATION : THE EQUIPMENT

#### ○ Purchasing

- Amplifier input impedance and CMRR
- Variable filter
- A-D conversion
- Trigger and delay
- CRT resolution
- Services



# EQUIPMENT

- Input impedance & Common mode rejection ratio,
- amplification of differences and removing of similar potentials
- CRT resolution
- analogue to digital conversion
- delay and trigger line
- service of factory
- **filter setting: 10-30** Hz (low frequency filter or high pass) **\_10000-30000**Hz (high frequency filter or low pass)
- It should be remember that the skill required to perform a competent needle exam is in the **hands of practitioner** not the instrument, irrespective of its cost.



# THE ART OF NEEDLE EXAM

- before punctuation:
- **pinching** the skin or **applying firm pressure** near the needle site, or **stretching the region** to be penetrated with first and second digits of opposite hand to facilitate needle insertion and reduced discomfort
- بعد از نیدل زدن و بررسی در یک نقطه در حالت rest ، نیدل را زیرجلدی کنید و سپس در مسیر دیگری در همان عضله تغییر جهت دهید. از مناطق دردناک دوری کنید مانند ناحیه end plate تاندون اعصاب عروق و پریوست استخوان.
- در هنگام voluntary MUAP هم برای تغییر جهت باید ابتدا زیرجلدی کنید تا درون عضله خم نشود یا باعث پارگی فیبرهای عضله نگردد.



## طریقه ریلکس کردن عضلات پاراسپاینال

- گذاشتن چند لایه بالش زیر شکم برای کمری و زیر سینه برای گردنی
- فشردن عضلات معده برای کمری یا ناحیه پیشانی برای گردنی
- گذاشتن بالش زیر زانوها و اویزان کردن دستها از بغل
- خوابیدن به پهلوها





# 5 STEPS IN NEEDLE EMG(DR.JHANSON & DUMITRU CRITERIA)

- **at rest**
- **insertional activity**
- **minimal to moderate contraction,**
- **maximal contraction**
- **Information synthesis**
- **Impression formulation**



# PERFORMING THE NEEDLE ELECTROMYOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION

## JOHNSON'S 5 STEP TO NEEDLE EXAMINATION

- 1. **muscle at rest** / same
- 2. **insertional activity** / same
- 3. **minimal** muscle contraction / **minimal to moderate**
- 4. **maximal** muscle contraction/ **information synthesis**
- 5. **exploration** / **impression formulation**



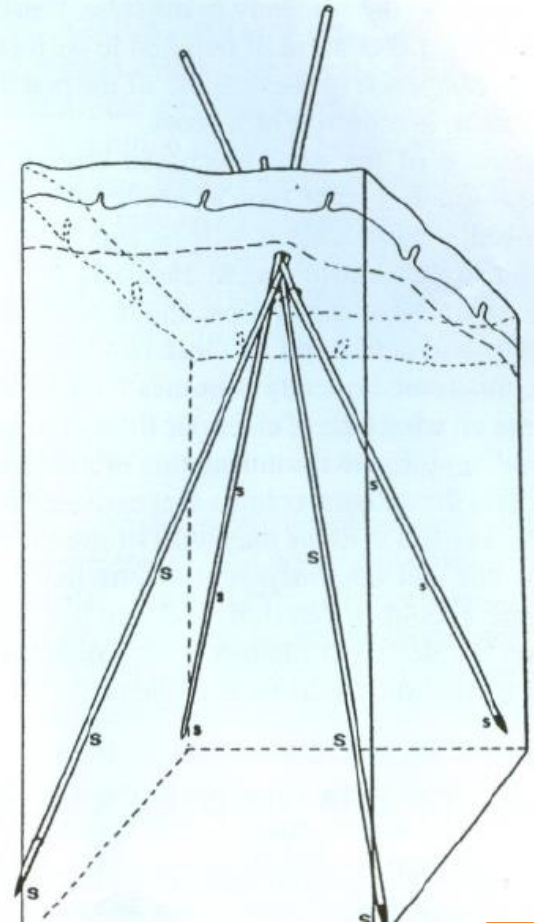
# 1. MUSCLE IN REST

- Sensitivity : 50 micro volt/ div
- sensitivity of  $100\mu\text{v}/\text{div}$  can be used
- Sweep speed: 10 ms/div
- filter setting: low filter 10-30 Hz and high filter setting of 10000-30000 Hz will avoid distortion of potentials
- Monopolar : reference elect. Close to site
- Quickly insertion through the skin
- as before noted taut and spread the skin with other hand
- the aim of this part: to observe the spontaneous activity if exist
- Beginning practitioner.....



## 2.INSERTIONAL ACTIVITY

- to induce the electrical activity that is not present spontaneously
- Pyramidal space
- 0.5- 2 mm increments with a several second pause between each insertion
- depth: several mm in facial and sphincter muscles and several cm in limb or paraspinals
- then withdraw to S.C tissue and redirect along a different axis
- Needle mechanically depolarize muscle fibers
- Injury potential



### 3. MINIMAL TO MODERATE CONTRACTION

- Gentle activate the muscle Think of small contraction
- Type I fiber analysis
- 500  $\mu\text{v}/\text{div}$
- High amp  $>5$  mv or more
- Polyphasia  $>4$
- duration long or short
- Interference pattern : minimal information
  - Pain
  - Patient effort
  - Ability for resistance applied be examiner
- Exception of max contraction benefit: **type II fiber atrophy (steriod myopathy)**
  - In maximal contraction normal high amp MUAP are absent. It is necessary to ensure superficial placement of needle to avoid bending needle and consequent trauma.



# INFORMATION SYNTHESIS

## IMPRESSION FORMULATION

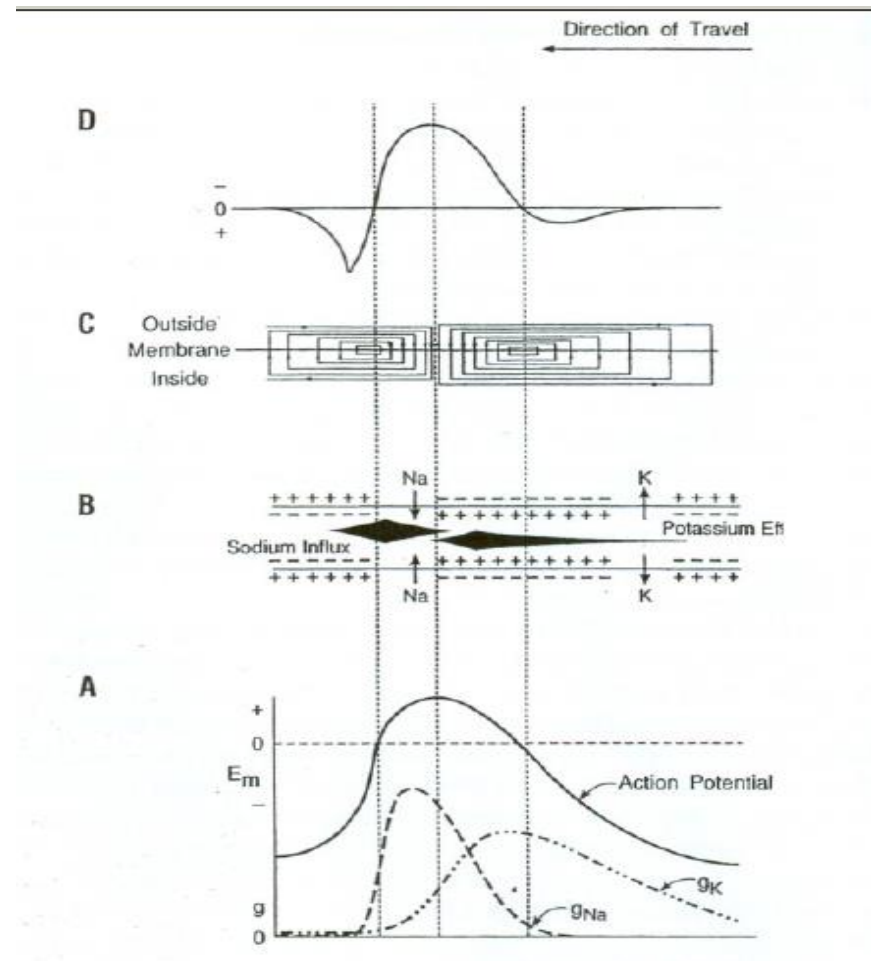
- needle EMG is a dynamic process and it is not similar to reading a ECG in isolation from patient.
- sometimes one simple result: CTS
- Sometimes combined result: neuropathy and radiculopathy
- at end: provide some recommendations about prognosis or treatment options if requested



# ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY

## ACTION POTENTIAL GENERATION

- Membrane potential depolarized from  $-80$  mV to  $-50$  to  $-60$  mV (threshold)
  - Voltage gated Na channel activated  $0.5$  ms
- Then depolarization to  $+40$  mV
  - Delayed increased K permeability with inactivation of Na channel  $2.0$  ms



# ELECTRICAL POTENTIALS

- spontaneous activity
- Muscle generator
- fasciculation's
- Fibrillation/psw
- Myotonia
- CRD
- spontaneous activity
- neural generator
- fasciculation's
- Myocymic discharges
- cramp
- Multiplet
- continues motor unit activity





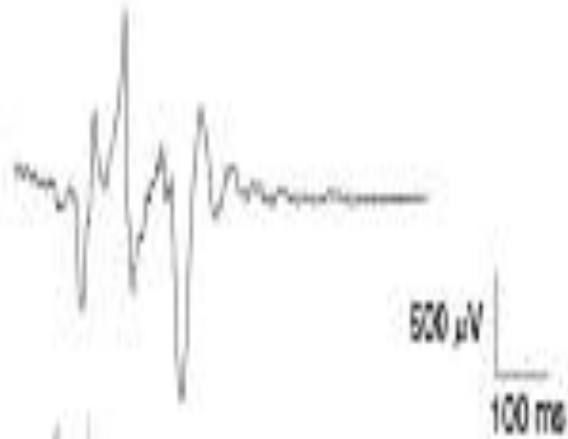
# INSERTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Monopolar :
  - Total time of activity: **< 230 ms**
  - After needle cessation 48+/- 18 ms
- Concentric
  - Total time(from insertion until needle cessation)  
**:<300 ms**
- In animal after denervation: PSW then Fib
- Snap crackle and pop :
  - **Normal in young men in GCS.**
  - Variable length of time persisted
- Another normal variant:
  - Run of PSW with few Fib
  - AD inheritance
- So Fib & PSW are **not always pathologic**



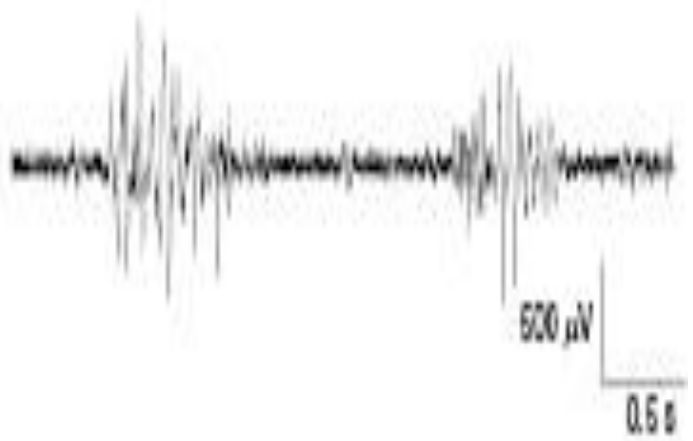
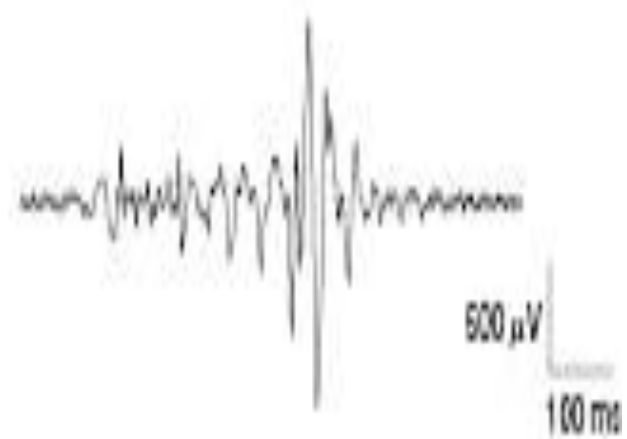
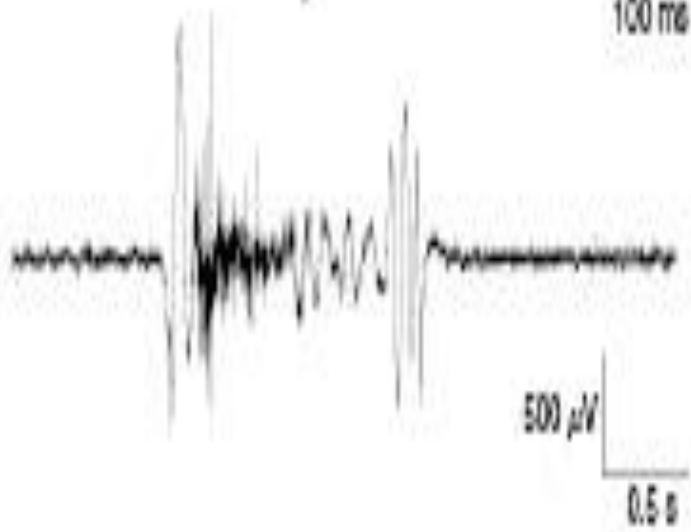
### A. EMG needle

Insertional  
activity



### B. I-EMG needle

Contraction



# NEEDLE INSERTIONAL ACTIVITY

**Table 7-2. Insertional Activity<sup>154</sup>**

Type	Duration	Shape	Etiology
Normal	< 300 ms	Spikes	Muscle depolarization
Increased	> 300–500 ms	Spikes	Normal variant
		Positive waves	Normal variant
			Denervation Myopathy
Decreased	Absent or < 300 ms	Absent/spikes	Fat Fibrosis Periodic paralysis



# INSERTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Decreased I.A :
  - Fibrosis
  - Sub Q
  - Attack of periodic paralysis
  - Improper electrode connection
- Increased IA:
  - Muscle denervation
  - Other membrane instability
- IA or sustained or unsustained spontaneous activity



# SPONTANEOUS ACTIVITY

Placing a needle in healthy muscle tissue at rest usually results in complete electrical silence, provided the needle is not located in the endplate region. The endplate is that specialized portion of a single muscle fiber where the terminal axon and muscle fiber form a neuromuscular junction. Two waveforms, miniature endplate potentials (MEPPs) and endplate spikes, may be concomitantly or independently observed with a needle electrode in the endplate portion of muscle tissue.



## 2.SPONTANEOUS ACTIVITY

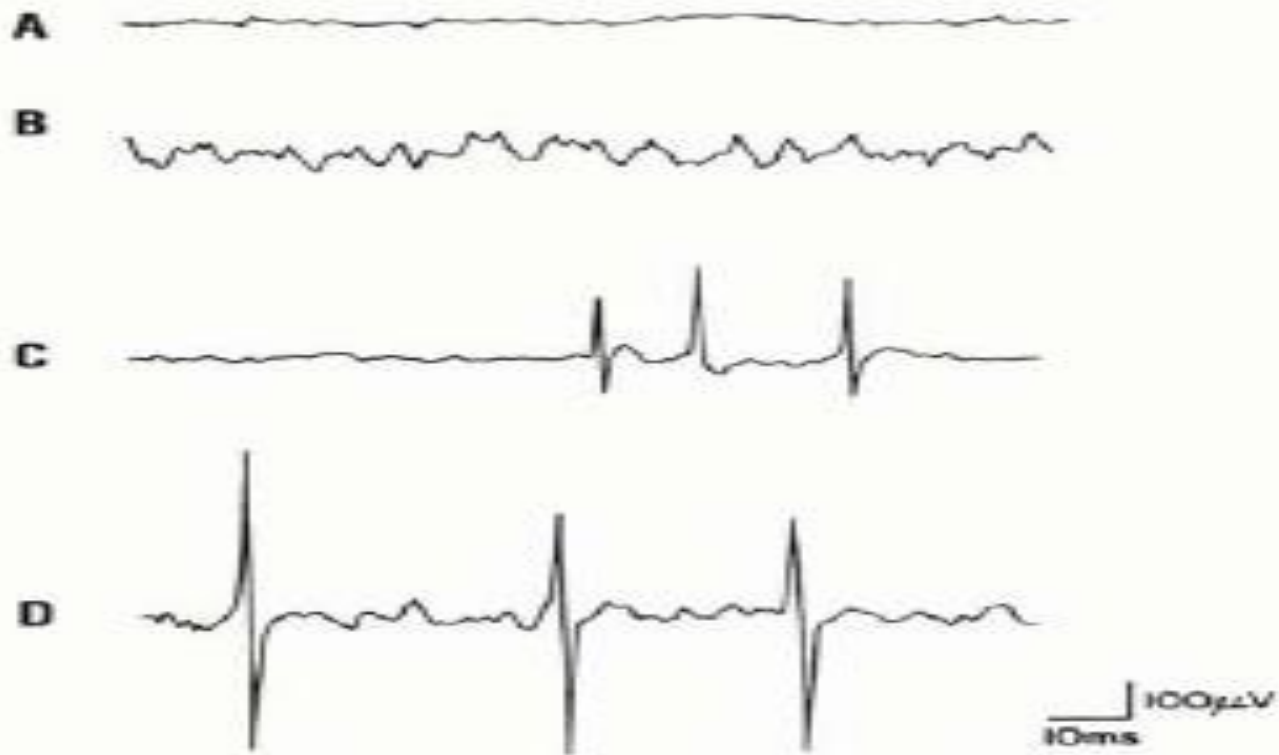
- After placing a needle into endplate
  - Miniature endplate potential (MEPPs)
  - Endplate spike



# MINIATURE ENDPLATE POTENTIALS

- ✓ Short duration (0.5-2 ms)
- ✓ Irregularly
- ✓ Small (10-40) $\mu$ v
- ✓ 20-40Hz
- ✓ Monophasic negative waveform
- ✓ high-pitched noise or **seashell murmur**
- spontaneous random release of acetylcholine (ACh) from the presynaptic nerve terminal
- subthreshold depolarization
- Following complete denervation of muscle tissue, it disappears because endplate degeneration

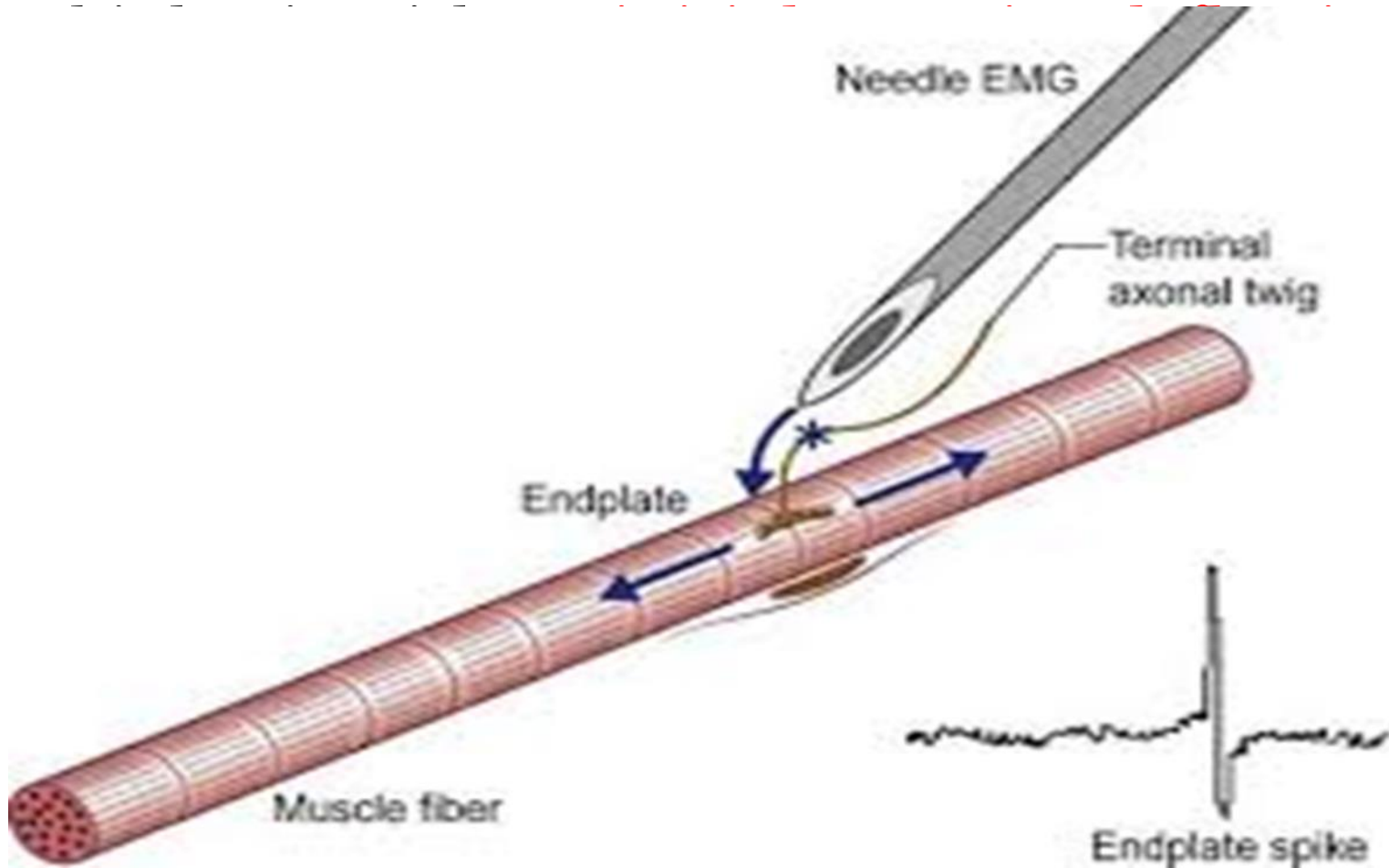




اگر 8-10 روز بعد از قطع عصب همچنان MEPP برقرار باشد  
یعنی عصب کاملاً دنروه نشده است.



# ENDPLATE SPIKES



## B) ENDPLATE SPIKE

- Longer duration (3-5ms)
- Moderate amp (100-200 mic v)
- Irregular
- Shape:
  - Biphasic with + initial : mistaken with PSW
  - Triphasic with + initial : mistaken with Fib
  - But endplate spike is highly irregular
- Some believed it arise from intrafusal muscle fiber
- **Crackling** sound

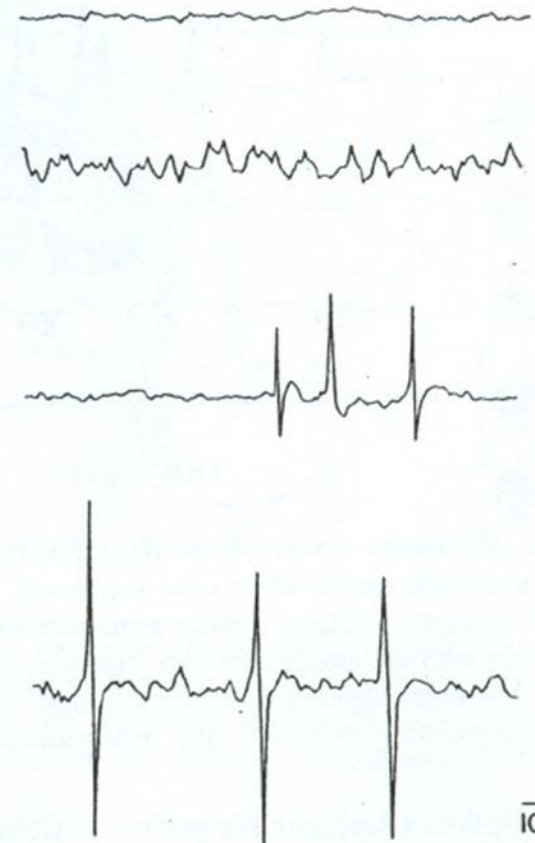


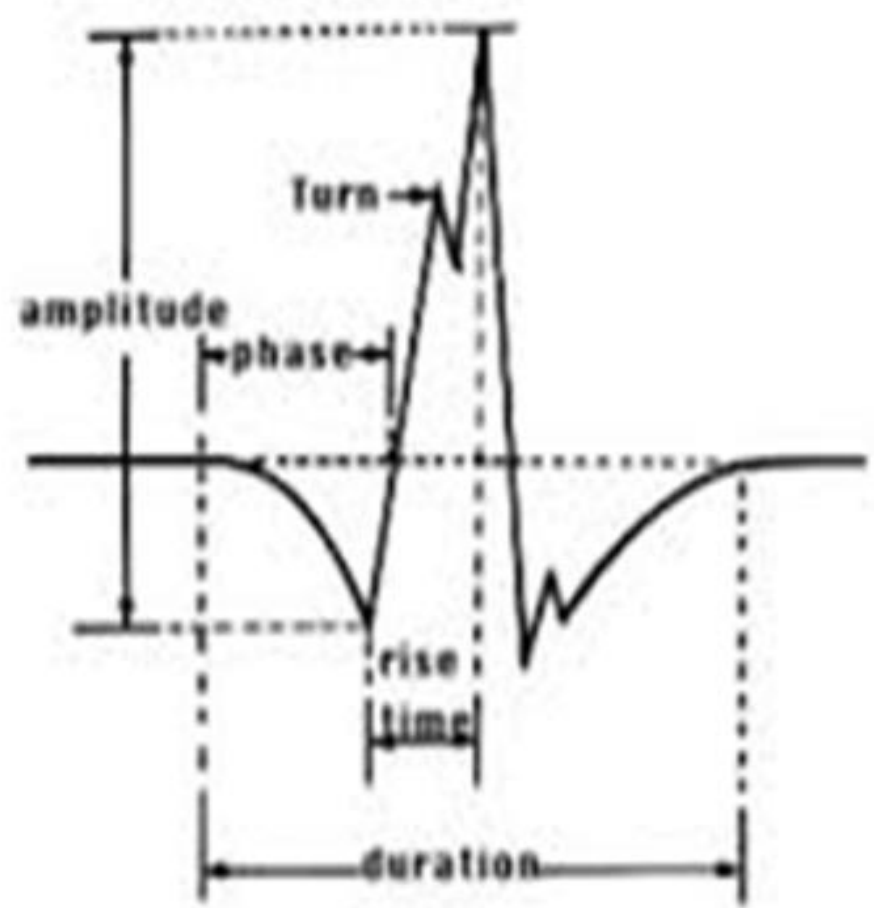
# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEEPS AND ENDPLATES

**Table 7-3. Endplate: Normal Spontaneous Activity**

	MEPPs	Endplate Spikes
Morphology	Monophasic negative	Biphasic negative/positive
Firing pattern	Irregular	Irregular
Amplitude	10–50 $\mu$ V	100–200 $\mu$ V
Duration	0.5–2.0 ms	3.0–4.0 ms
Origin site	Endplate	Single muscle fiber depolarization from needle electrode generating a suprathreshold endplate potential
Denervation	Disappear	Disappear

Modified after Brown<sup>21</sup>





EMG Test Report ( Electromyogram)



- یک single muscle fiber A.P یک پتانسیل تری فازیک ابتدا پازتیو بعد نگاتیو هست به سه دلیل تبدیل میشود به موج بیفازیک:
- موج سوم پازتیو ان در نويز بیس لاین محو شده باشد
- از ناحیه تاندون رکورد شده باشد
- ناحیه کانولا در end plate قرار گرفته و موج اولیه نگاتیو/پازتیو را به حالت پازتیو /نگاتیو کانورت (invert) می کند.



# واحد حرکتی

واحد حرکتی واحد حرکتی (به انگلیسی : Motor unit) کوچکترین واحد عملکردی عصبی-عضلانی در فرآیند انقباض عضلات اسکلتی است. هر واحد حرکتی از یک نورون حرکتی آلفا ، آکسون آن و همچنین تمامی ...



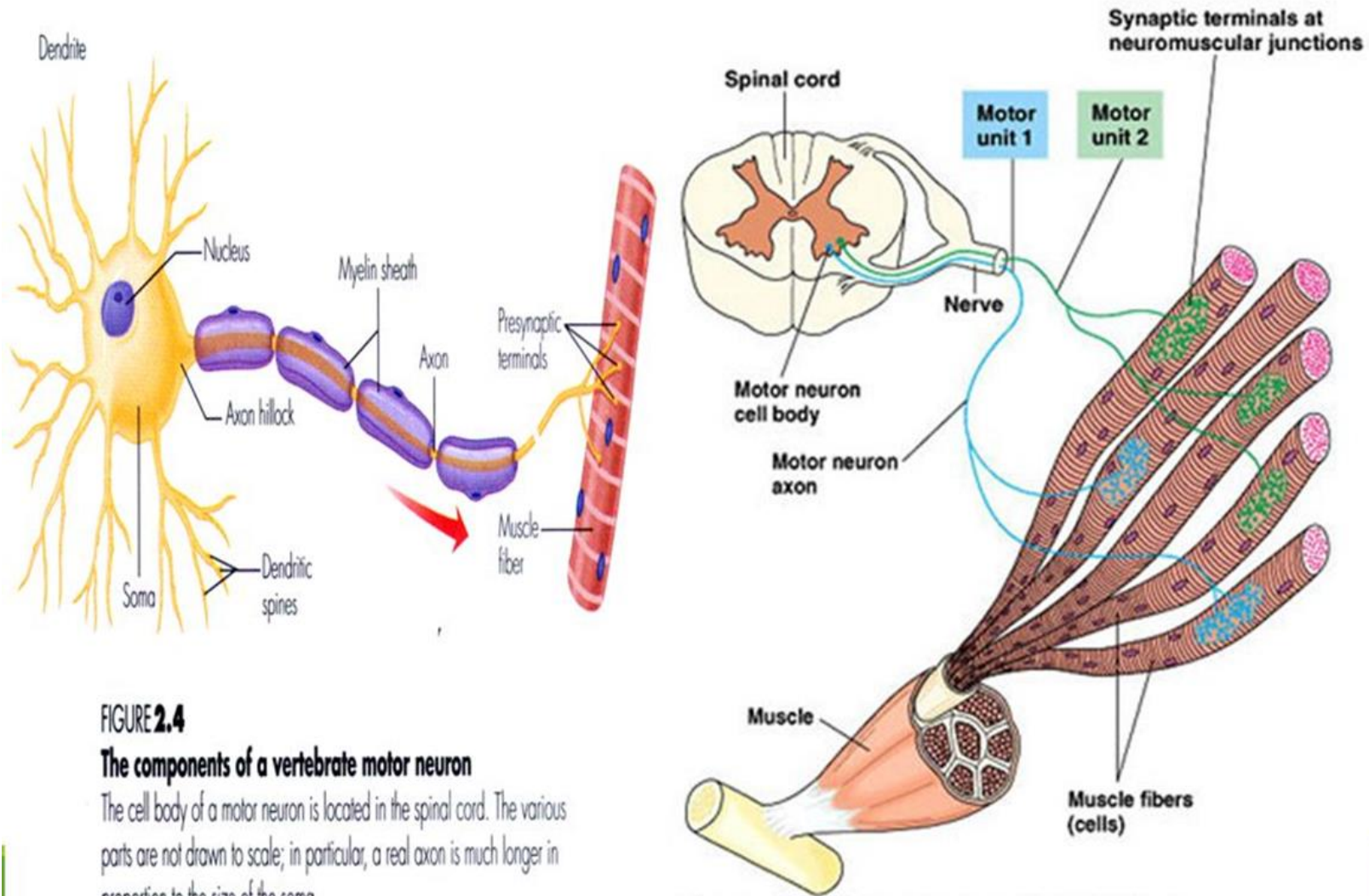
# MUAPs

## ANATOMY

- Motor unit definition
- Types:
  - Alpha: skeletomotor
  - Beta : skeletofusimotor
  - Gamma: fusiomotor
- Alpha situated in ventrolateral horn
  - Limbs motor units **located laterally** in comparison with neck and trunk muscle.
  - They have axon collateral to synapse with **Renshaw interneurons** and other alpha motor neurons
- One MU may be distributed over 100 muscle fiber
  - MUs do not extend between 2 muscle
  - **One single fiber innervated by only one MN**
  - **Sometimes 2 NMJ seen but its from one MN**



# What is the Motor Unit?



**FIGURE 2.4**

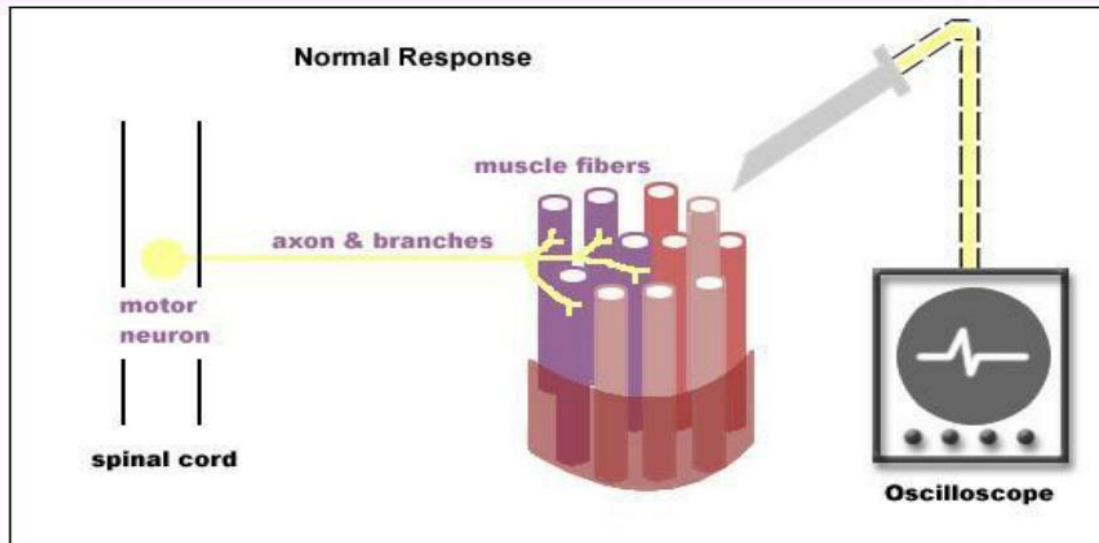
## The components of a vertebrate motor neuron

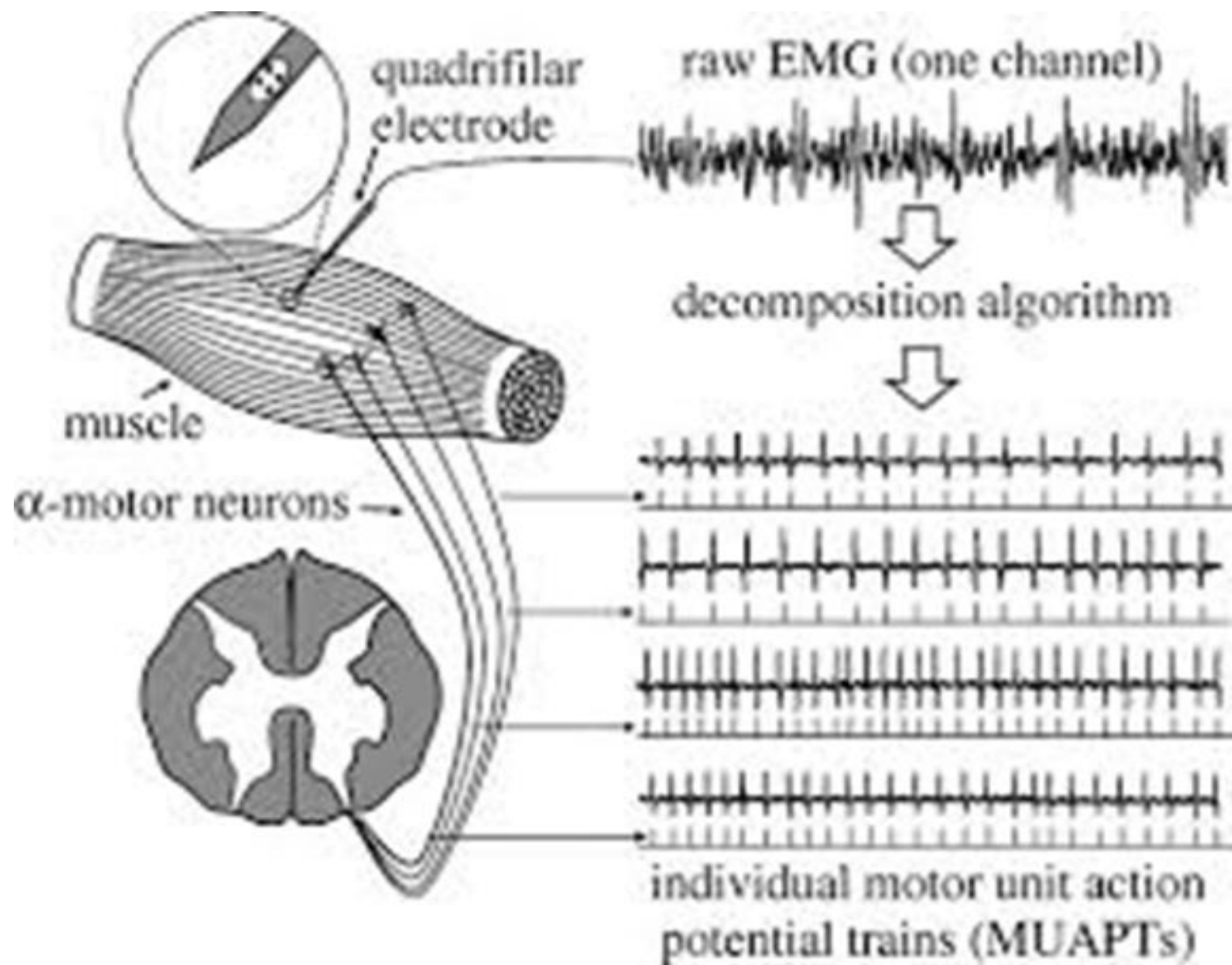
The cell body of a motor neuron is located in the spinal cord. The various parts are not drawn to scale; in particular, a real axon is much longer in proportion to the size of the soma.



- واحد حرکتی ( motor unit ) شامل جسم سلولی نورون حرکتی
- آکسون نورون حرکتی
- فیبرهای عضلانی هستند که از آن آکسون عصب گیری میشوند.

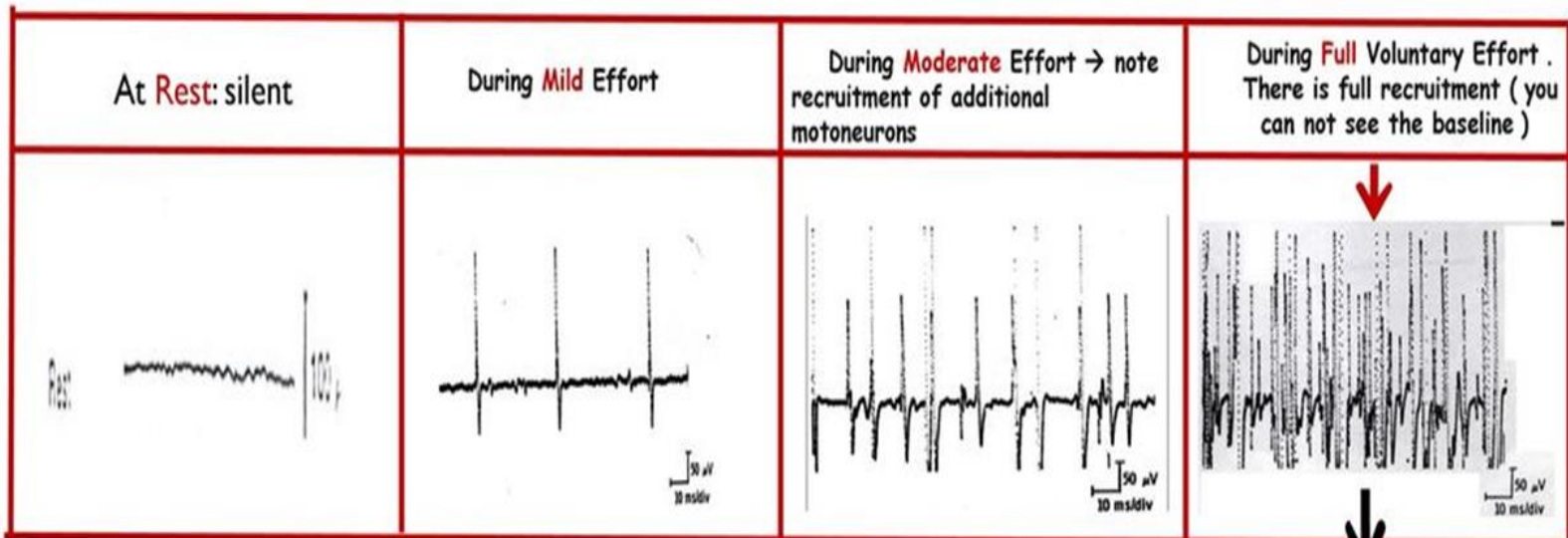
## NORMAL EMG





# Motor Unit Potentials (MUPs) (Normal MUP)

- ▶ (MUPs): is the potentials recorded (on volitional effort) in needle EMG are derived from motor units of the muscle.



## ▶ (MUPs) Abnormalities:

- In nerve diseases: Giant MUPs due to re-innervation > 5 mV.
- In muscle disease: Small MUPs < 300 $\mu$ V.

Max contraction →  
Full interference pattern

Innervation ratio:

Total number of muscle fibers in a particular muscle  
dividing by the number of large motor axons  
innervating that muscle.

به عنوان مثال در رکتوس فوقانی چشم 23 فیبر به ازای هر موتور یونیت هست  
در عضله گاستروکنمیوس 1934 فیبر به ازای هر موتور یونیت هست.



# PHYSIOLOGY

- MU classifications
- **Fast twitch**
- More force innervated by fast conductive neurons
- **Slow twitch**
- Small force by slow conductive neurons
- Speed of contraction
- Specific contractile proteins
- Rate of calcium uptake
- Fast twitches have
- More extensive sarcoplasmic reticulum
- Richer in Ca-Mg ATPase



# MOTOR UNITS CLASSIFICATION

- Fast fatigue (FF)
- Readily fatigue
- High tetanus tension
- Fast contraction time
- Slow (s)
- Low tetanus tension
- Long contraction time
- Resistant to fatigue
- Third group
- Moderate tetanic tension
- Fast twitch time
- Relatively fatigue resistant (FR)



# Muscle Fibre Types



Long Distance

**Type 1**

Slow twitch



400m / 800m

**Type 2A**

Fast twitch oxidative



Short Sprints

**Type 2B**

Fast twitch glycolytic

Low



High

Fatigue rate



# HISTOCHEMICAL TECHNIQUE

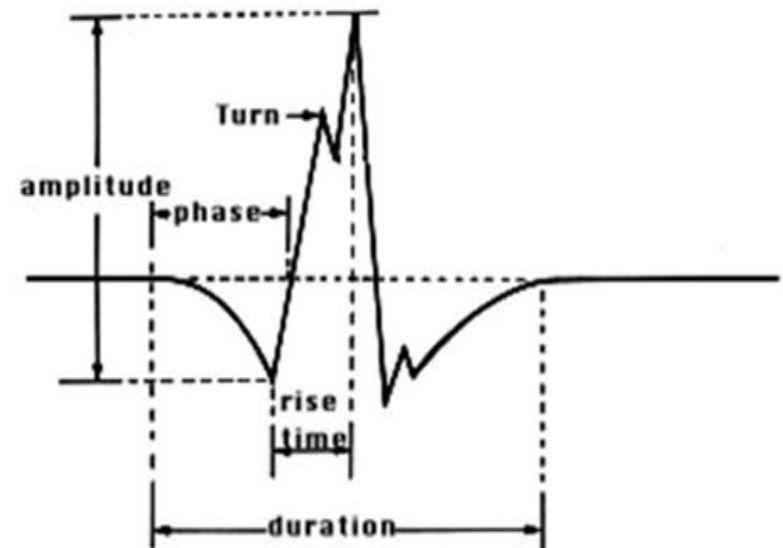
- Fatigue resistant: higher activity of
  - Mitochondrial enzymes
  - Succinate dehydrogenase
- Fatigue sensitive: higher activity in
  - Phosphorylase activity (myosin ATPase)





# Electromyography (EMG) Parameters Recorded

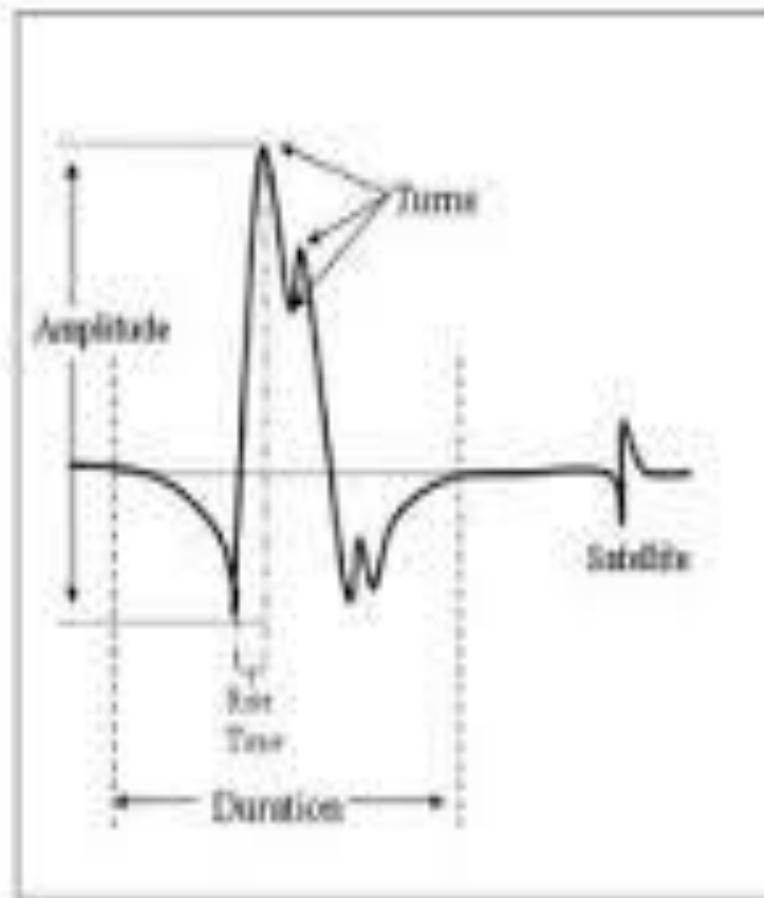
- ▶ Amplitude = negative peak to positive peak
- ▶ Duration = time from first deflection of the baseline to the last return to baseline
- ▶ Number of phases = number of times the components of the motor unit potential cross the baseline plus one
- ▶ Rise time = elapsed time between the peak of the initial positive (down) deflection to the peak of the highest negative (up) deflection



*Note: the number of fibers contained in a motor unit and their degree of synchrony affect these characteristics*

# Motor Unit Potential Parameters

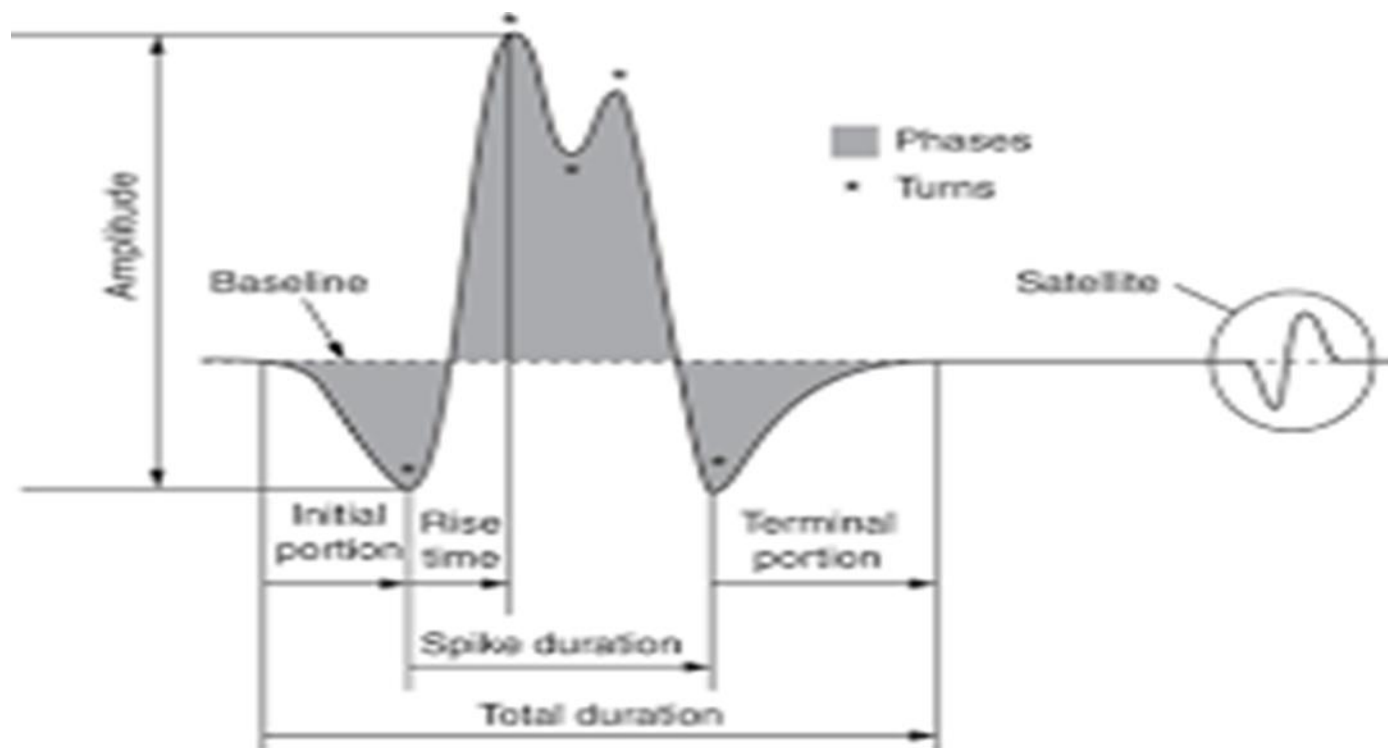
- Rise time
  - Distance from generator
- Spikes, turns, phases
  - Number of fibers
- Duration
  - Size and synchrony
- Amplitude
- Stability
  - Junction or terminal



# PHASE

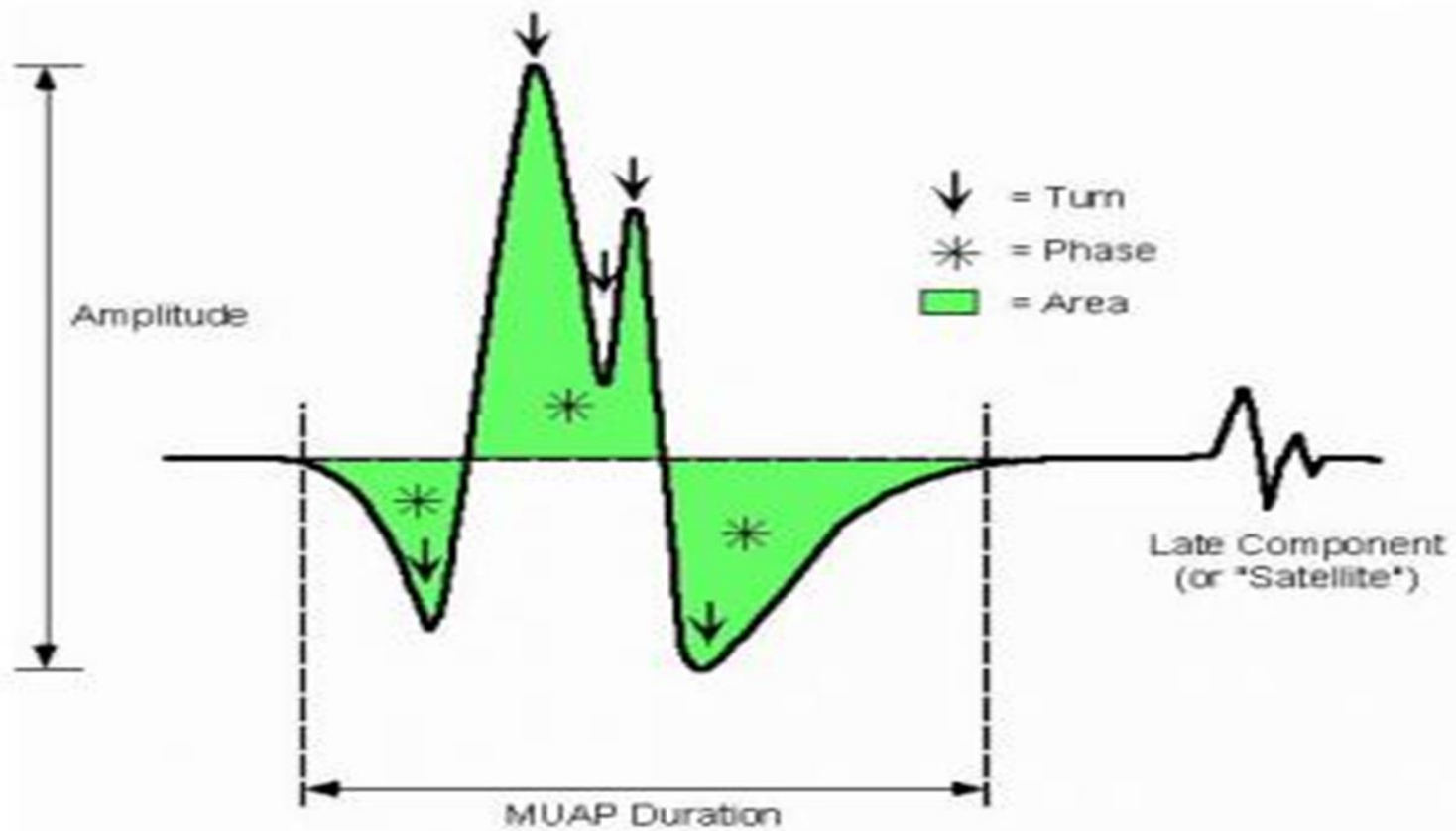
- Polyphasy : 5 or more
- Monopolar: up to 30% nl
- Concentric: up to 15% nl
- Main spike arise from 1-12 near fibers
- Amp or rise time is belonged to 1-12 muscle fiber  
In 300-500  $\mu\text{m}$  distance from recording surface
- Distant muscle tissue :act as low pass filter
- low frequency initial and terminal
- Small negative spike

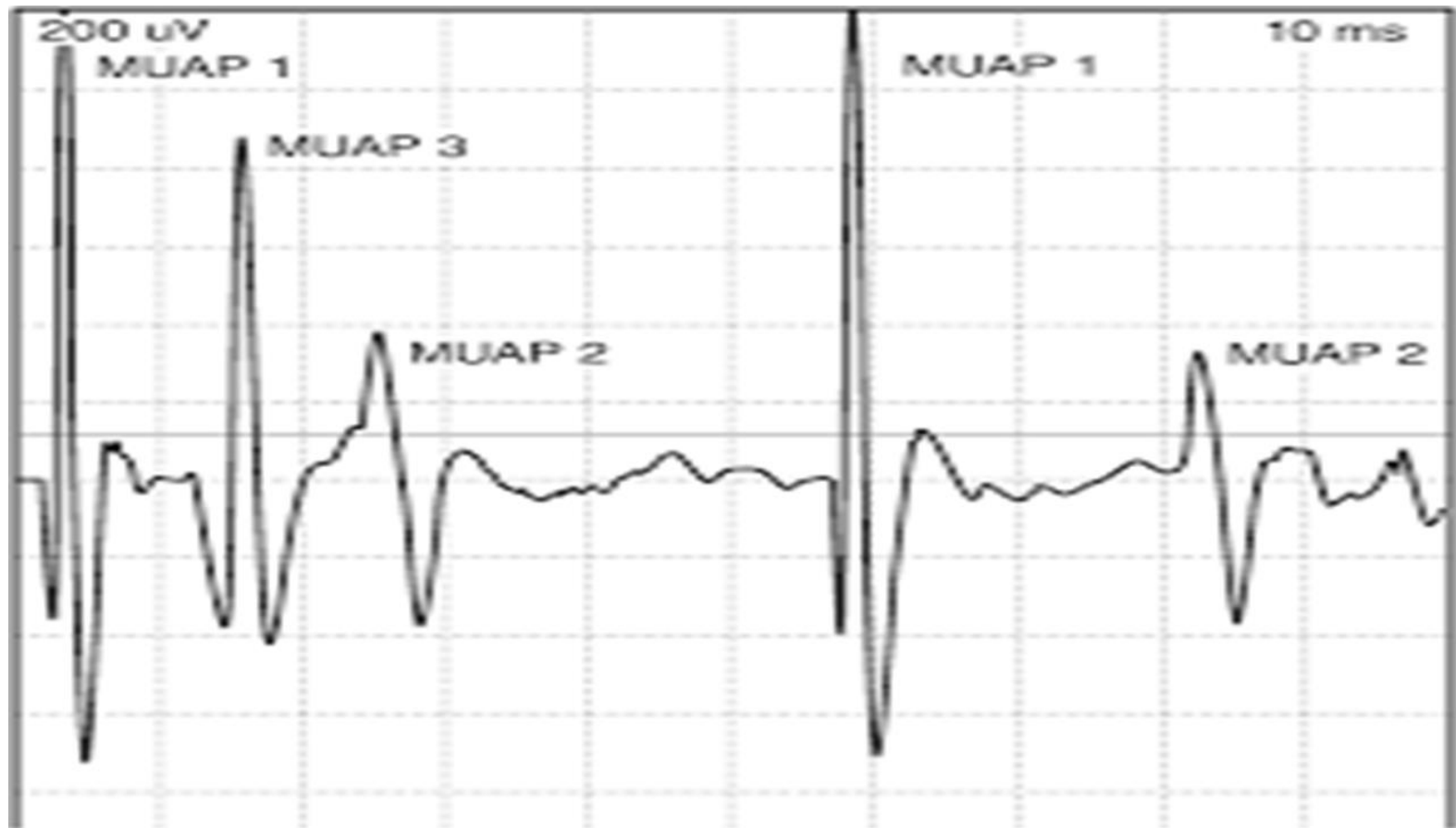




Source: Ian B. Maitin: Current Diagnosis & Treatment: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
 www.accessmedicine.com  
 Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.







# چه چیزهایی روی اجزا و پارامترهای MUAP اثر میگذارد؟

## ❖ پارامترهای muap

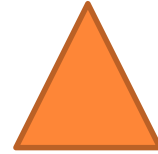
- Amp
- Duration
- Phase

## ❖ عوامل موثر:

- (سن، جنس، ورزشکار؟) بیمار
- (دما) عوامل محیطی
- (فرکانس دستگاه, نوع needle) عوامل مربوط به دستگاه



# سرما (کاهش دما): $T$

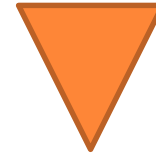


- Amp افزایش
- Diuration افزایش
- Phase افزایش





# :CONCENTRIC



کاهش Amp ❖  
کاهش Duration  
کاهش Phase  
!!! و اما افزایش IA



# **MUAP AMPLITUDE**

- **Instrumentation factor**
- Reduction in **MUAP amplitude**
  - Reduced HFF
  - Concentric needle
  - Large electrode lead off surface
  - Rotation on concentric needle
  - Removal of Teflon in concentric
- Effect of **temperature on MUAP**
- Controversial
- Authors opinion:
  - Reduction of temp
    - Increased initially
    - More dec. in temp.: AP failure and MUAP decreased
- **In >65 Y** : MUAP increased



# \* مقایسه انواع نیدل از نظر آمپلیتود

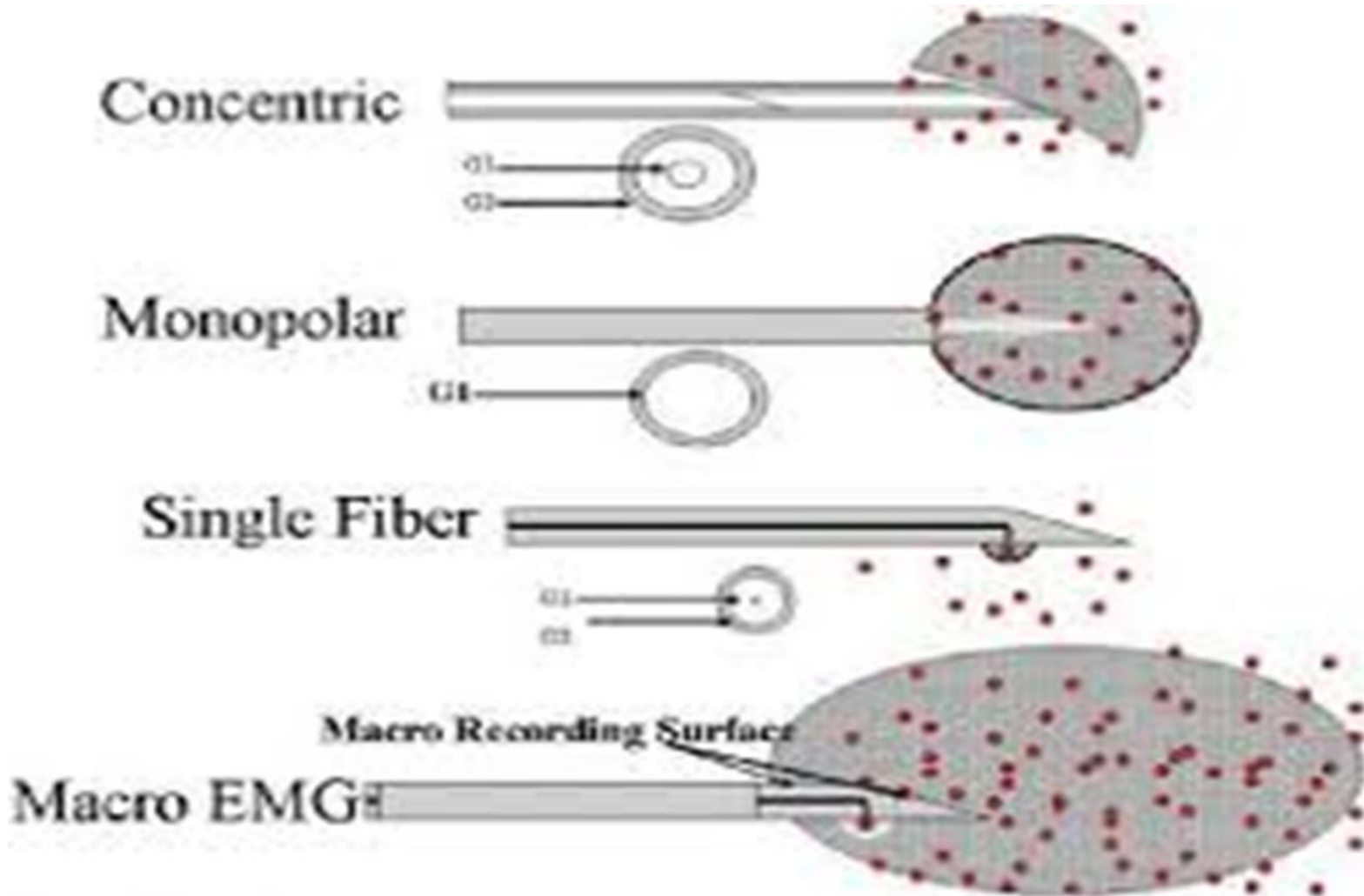


FIGURE 2. Electrode types used in recording electromyographic



- Electrophysiologic counting
  - Incremental motor unit counting
    - Max CMAP divided by mean incremental amplitude
- PAS staining
  - Circular region about 20-30% muscle volume
  - Higher density in enter of motor unit
  - Upper limb MU territory: circular to oval 5-7 mm
  - Lower limb MU territory: m7-12 mm



# MUAP DURATION

- Duration depend on:
- Width of **Endplate Zone**
- Lesser: terminal axon conduction velocity
- Inc LFF: Deletion of initial and terminal
- Dec. duration
- **Concentric needle** : Reduced duration
- **Cooling** : Increased duration



# *MUAP* PHASE

- Synchronicity
- Aging and temperature reducing:
  - Increased phase
- Elevating LFF : inc phasicity
- Monopolar have more polyphasic potential



# *RECRUITMENT*

## ○ Principles:

- First MUAP : small and slow type I
- Minimal to moderate force needed
- Late type II MUAPs in not simple to analyze
- Subtle pathology my be miss
- Increasing fire rate of first MUAP with more force
- Slow and constant contraction is sufficient for analysis



# OTHERS

- Equipment :
  - LFF: 10-30
  - HFF: 10,000 or more
  - Sweep speed 20 ms/div
- Techniques :
  - Identify first MUAP and measure firing rate





# RECRUITMENT PRINCIPLES

- Henneman size principle
- First MU activated is weakest
- Then large MUs activated
- So contraction is smooth and appropriate to need



# NORMAL RECRUITMENT

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
5 Hz			
10 Hz	5 Hz		
15 Hz	10 Hz	5 Hz	
20 Hz	15 Hz	10 Hz	5 Hz



# NEUROGENIC RECRUITMENT

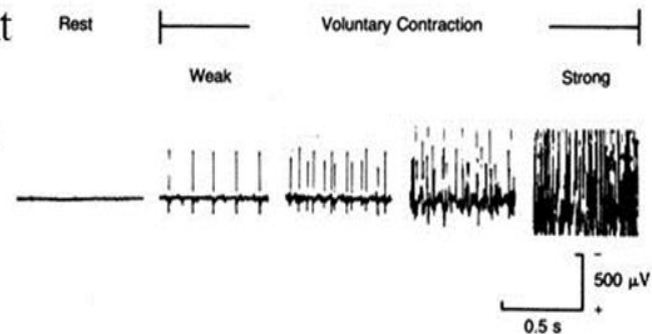
- Decreased recruitment
- Recruitment **ratio**  $> 5$
- Neuroapraxia could mimic that

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
20			
25	0	0	
30	0	0	20

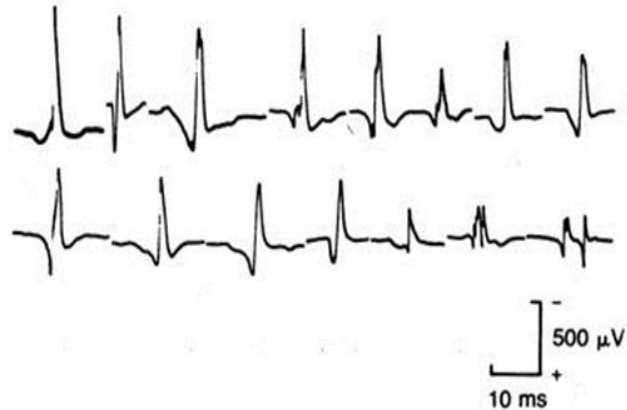


# Normal EMG Activity

- **Recruitment Pattern:** Recruitment refers to successive activation of the same and new motor units with increasing strength of voluntary muscle contraction.



- **Motor Unit Action Potentials (MUAPs):** Action potentials reflecting the electric activity of a single motor unit. It is a compound action potential of those muscle fibers within the recording range of the electrode.



# RECRUITMENT

- Recruitment **frequency** : 10 Hz
  - فرکانس موتور یونیت MUAP A وقتی که MUAP B به خدمت گرفته میشود را رکورتمنت فرکانسی گویند که در عضلات اندام 12-15 هرتز و در عضلات فاسیال حدود 20 هرتز می باشد.
- Recruitment **interval** : 100ms
  - در عضلات صورت کوتاهتر است اینتروال.
- Recruitment **ratio**: 5
  - $\text{frequency of fastest MUAP} / \text{the number of MUAPS firing in CRT}$
  - به عنوان مثال  $5 = 20 / 4$  ولی اگر بالای 8 باشد نوروژنیک وزیر 5 باشد میوژنیک خواهد بود.



# RECRUITMENT

- Recruitment *frequency*:
  - Frequency of MUAP A when MUAP B begin firing
- Recognition:
  - Observing for second MU to appear
  - Change in sound
- Recruitment *interval*
  - Distance between 2 peaks of MUAP
- Normal muscle
  - Recruitment frequency: 10 Hz
  - Recruitment interval: 100 ms
  - Facial muscles: short interval and high frequency



## \* RECRUITMENT RATIO?

### ○ Recruitment *ratio*:

- Frequency of fastest MUAP divided by number of **Different MUAP** in screen
- Should be close to **5**
- If near **10**: too few MU presented (**neurogenic**)
- If **below 4** : too many MU existed (**myogenic**)



## ○ محاسبه firing frequency

- تناسب می بندیم در 100 ms صفحه مثلا دوتا داریم در 1000 ms چقدر؟ میشود 20 هرتز
- 100 را بر خانه های بزرگ بین دو موتور یونیت پشت سر هم تقسیم می کنیم مثلا 100 تقسیم بر 4 میشود: 25 هرتز
- اگر سویچ 100 میلی سکند باشد تعداد موتور یونیت های صحنه را در 10 ضرب می کنیم و اگر سویچ 50 باشد تعداد آنها را در 20 ضرب می کنیم.  $20 = 10 * 2$  هرتز

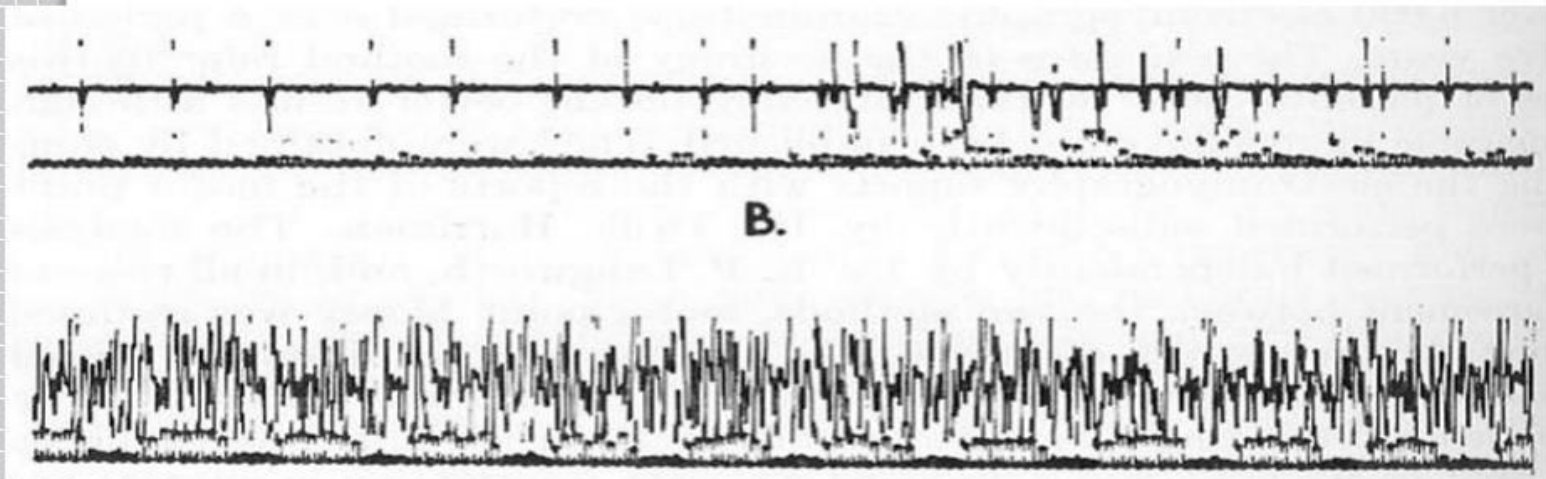




# INTERFERENCE PATTERN \* تعريف

## Interference Pattern

- Normally seen with strong muscular contraction
- Individual potentials are summated with increasing number of motor units firing at higher frequencies



# INTERFERENCE PATTERN

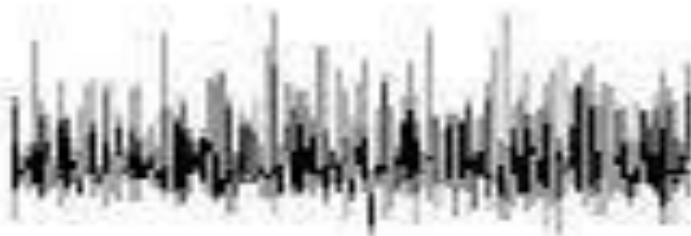
در صفحه

\*مفهوم

## CRT

Interference pattern

A.



Normal trace

B.



Neuropathic trace

C.



Myopathic trace



: **NEEDLE EMG** \*مراحل مختلف در بررسی  
IA → REST → POWER

**Table 7-1. Electrical Potentials**

- 
- I. Insertional Activity
    - A. Normal
    - B. Increased
    - C. Decreased
  - II. Spontaneous Activity
    - A. Muscle generator
      - 1. Fasciculation
      - 2. Fibrillation
      - 3. Positive sharp wave
      - 4. Myotonia
      - 5. Complex repetitive discharge
    - B. Neural generator
      - 1. Fasciculation
      - 2. Myokymic discharge
      - 3. Continuous motor unit activity
      - 4. Cramp
      - 5. Tremor
      - 6. Multiplet
  - III. Voluntary Activity
    - A. Normal MUAPs
    - B. Polyphasic MUAPs
    - C. MUAPs with increased/decreased duration
    - D. MUAPs with increased/decreased amplitude
    - E. Multiplet MUAPs
    - F. MUAPs with variable amplitudes
    - G. Abnormal MUAP recruitment
- 

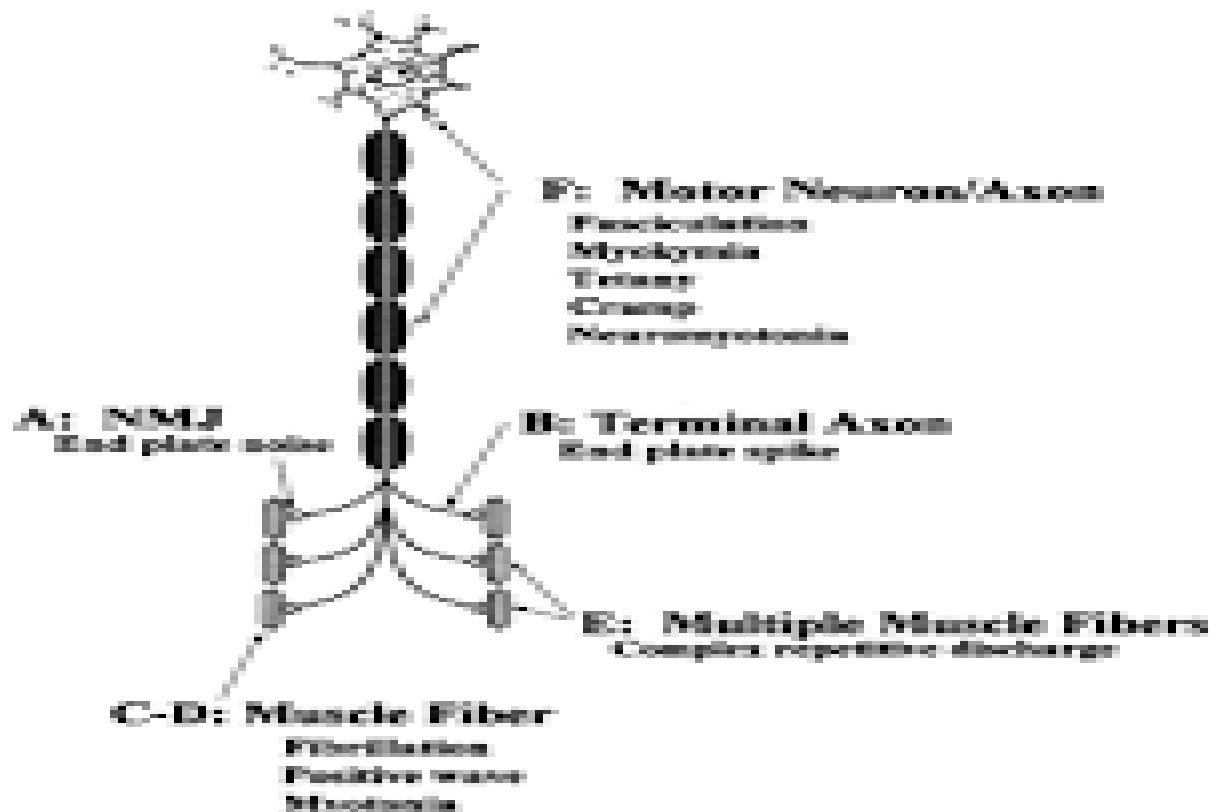


## IA ; ONE POINT

- In increased insertional activity , it is better to state that “sustained” or “unsustained” abnormal spontaneous potentials because duration of depolarization both in denervated and innervated muscle is the same despite significant membrane instability and time period is 50ms.



\* شکل شماتیک آناتومیک برای یک **MOTOR UNIT**:  
عصب --> آکسون --> NMJ --- عضله



son DC, Shapiro BE. Needle electromyography: fundamentals, normal and abnormal patterns. *Neurol Clin* (2002); 20:361-395.



**Table 7-1. Electrical Potentials**

---

I. Insertional Activity

- A. Normal
- B. Increased
- C. Decreased

II. Spontaneous Activity

A. Muscle generator

- 1. Fasciculation
- 2. Fibrillation
- 3. Positive sharp wave
- 4. Myotonia
- 5. Complex repetitive discharge

B. Neural generator

- 1. Fasciculation
- 2. Myokymic discharge
- 3. Continuous motor unit activity
- 4. Cramp
- 5. Tremor
- 6. Multiplet

III. Voluntary Activity

- A. Normal MUAPs
  - B. Polyphasic MUAPs
  - C. MUAPs with increased/decreased duration
  - D. MUAPs with increased/decreased amplitude
  - E. Multiplet MUAPs
  - F. MUAPs with variable amplitudes
  - G. Abnormal MUAP recruitment
- 



○ **MUSCLE GENERATORS OF**

**ABNORMAL SPONTANEOUS POTENTIALS**



# MUSCLE GENERATORS OF ABNORMAL SPONTANEOUS POTENTIALS

## ○ SA from Muscle:

- IA
- Fib
- PSW
- CRD ( BHF or سوڈومیوتونی )
- میوتونی





# FIBRILLATION POTENTIAL

- Resting membrane potential in denervated muscle fiber approach to less negative level of -60mV compared to normal value of -80mV.
- -80  $\longrightarrow$  -60 (threshold)  $\longrightarrow$  -75 (hyperpolarization)  $\longrightarrow$  regular occurring fib in a cyclical pattern
- there is intervals of quiescence muscle this explains why sometimes fibs are abundance and sometimes are absent.
- fib waves
  - 1. triphasic :pos/neg/pos
  - 2. biphasic: neg/pos (mainly record from endplate
  - 3. biphasic: pos/neg(more common) third phase has been lost in baseline noise.

## \* FIBRILLATION POTENTIAL

### عوامل موثر در کاهش آن

- 4-6 or longer days
- Threshold level and regularly repetition
- Fib are more present in previous endplate region
- **Decreased with:**
  - Decreased temperature
  - Ischemia
  - D-tubocurarine
- 50 % regular
- High pitched: **crackling cellophane** or rain
- Sound like **rain on the roof**



# FIBRILLATION POTENTIALS

**Table 7-8. Characteristics of Fibrillation Potentials<sup>154</sup>**

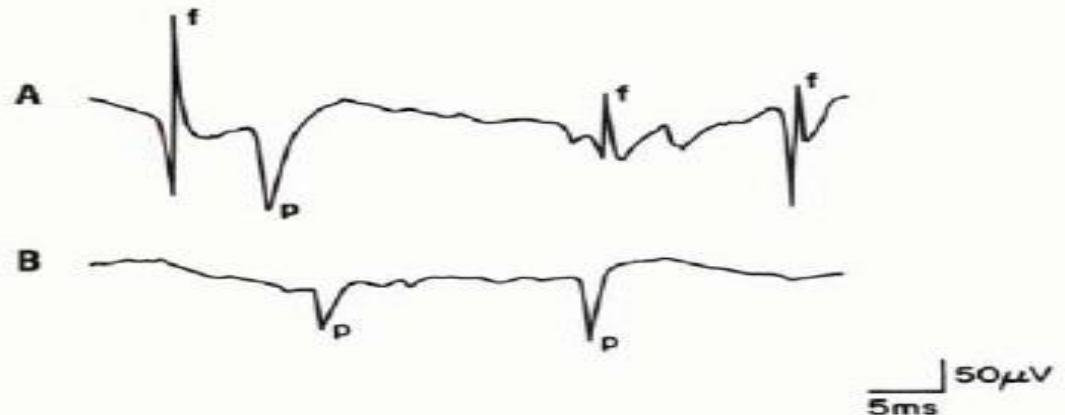
---

Appearance:	a. Biphasic spike 1–5 ms in duration b. Positive wave with negative phase
Rhythm:	Usually regular but can be somewhat irregular
Frequency:	0.5 to 15 Hz
Amplitude:	20 to 1000 $\mu$ V
Stability:	Stable
Observed in:	a. Muscle disorders Inflammatory myopathies Inclusion body myositis Congenital myopathies Some muscular dystrophies Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis Rhabdomyolysis Muscle trauma following muscle biopsies Trichinosis b. Neurogenic disorders Anterior horn cell disorders Radiculopathies Plexopathies Mononeuropathies Peripheral neuropathies Entrapment neuropathies Upper motor neuron disorders (stroke, head injury, and spinal cord injury) c. Neuromuscular junction disorders Myasthenia gravis Botulism

---

## \*POSITIVE SHARP WAVE

- Positive wave terminated to base line
- Monophasic
- Same ethiology
- Purely demyelinating disease have PSWs but no fibrillation
- PSW appear earlier than fibrillations in muscles of human or animals deprived from nerve supply
- Combination of Fib/PSW
- Sound: **dull pop**



# CLINICAL FINDINGS

- Radiculopathy
  - 7-10 days : paraspinal
  - 21 days: limbs
- Persistent : sequestered muscles
- Amplitude:
  - First 2 m : 600 micro v
  - End of 3 m: 500 micro v
  - At 6 m: 300 micro v
  - One year: < 100 micro v
- In period paralysis : no fib between attacks
- ✓ Recorded in both neurogenic and myopathic disease



# CLINICAL FINDINGS

Recorded in both neurogenic and myopathic ✓  
disease

One to three weeks ✓

The mean Fibrillation amplitude during: ➤

First two months: 600

Third month: 500

6 months: 300

After one year: 100

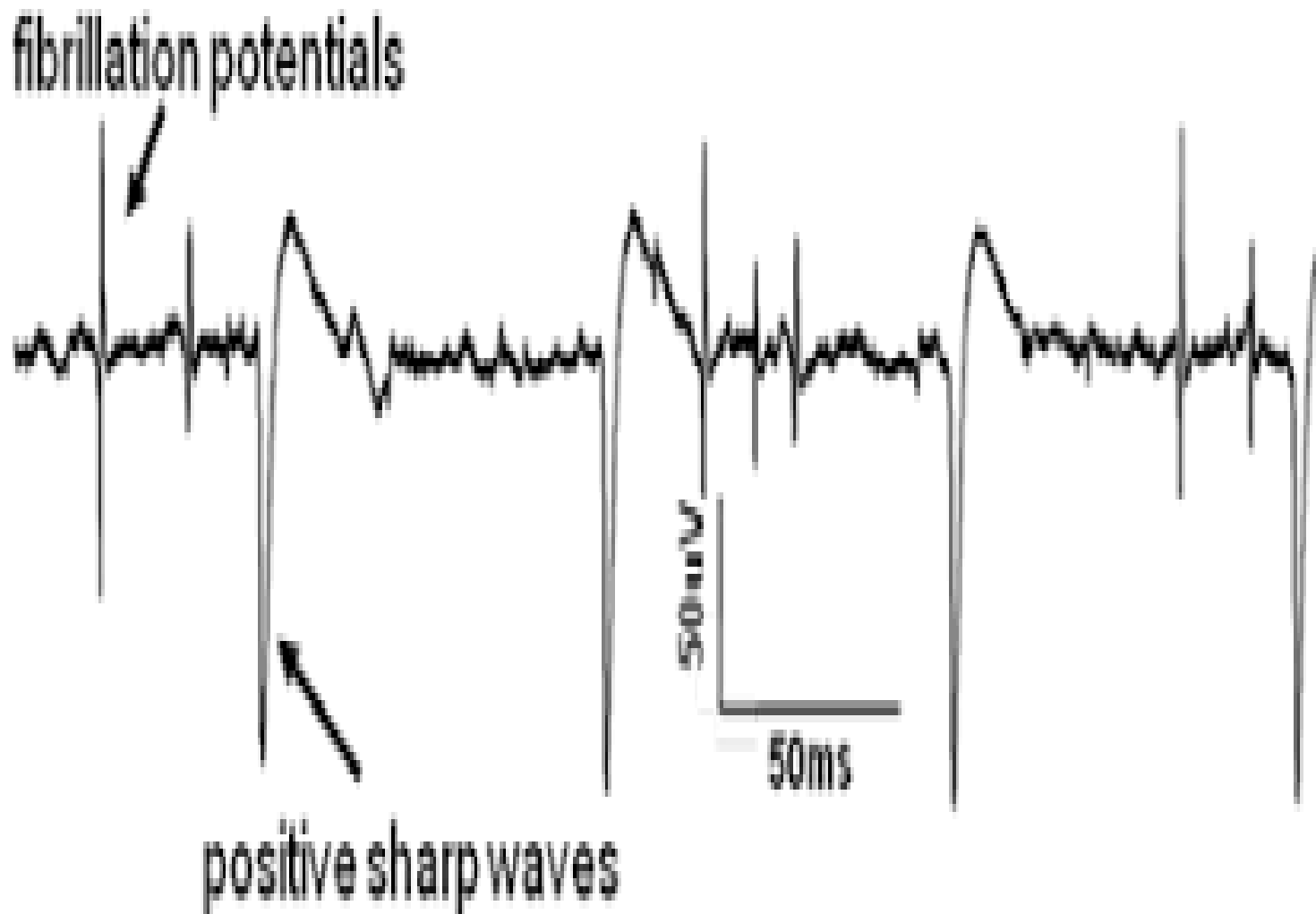
As long as muscle vasculature will be alive fib  
will be persistent, then will be sequestered  
and then over time muscle will be atrophie and  
amplitudes reduces.

- The incidence of membrane instability was greater in muscle with significant weakness (force < 4) than muscle with a grade of 4+ or more.
- A single investigation has suggested that it is easier to detect Fibrillations potentials and positive sharp waves with a concentric compared to monopolar needle electrode.

**Table 7-9. Grading of Fibrillation Potentials<sup>41</sup>**

Grading	Characteristics
0	No fibrillation potentials
1+	Persistent/unsustained single trains in at least two muscle regions
2+	Moderate numbers in three or more muscle areas
3+	Many in all muscle regions
4+	CRT baseline obliterated with fibrillation potentials in all areas of muscle examined

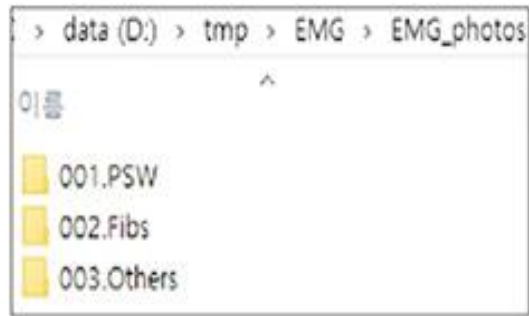
\*شکل FIB & PSW و مقایسه ی آنها در صفحه CRT



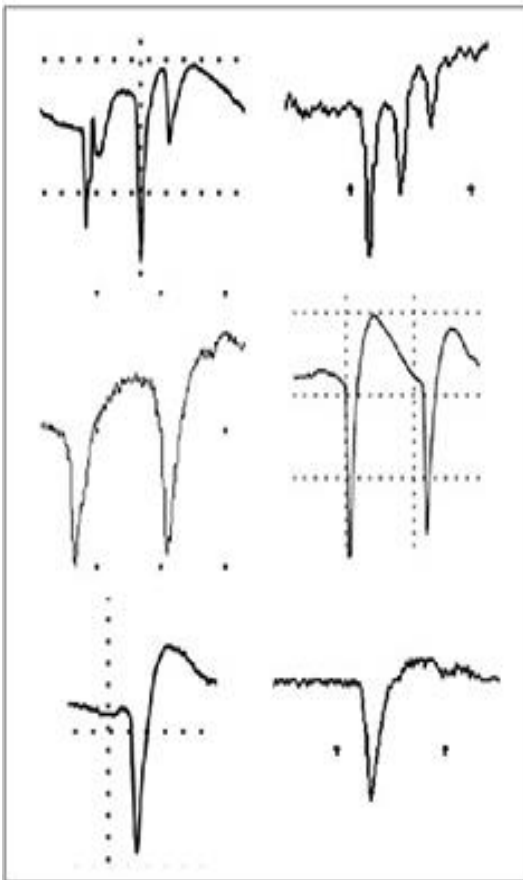


- The incidence of membrane instability was **greater** in muscle with significant **weakness** (**force < 4**) than muscle with a grade of 4+ or more.
- A single investigation has suggested that it is **easier to detect** Fibrillations potentials and positive sharp waves with a **concentric** compared to monopolar needle electrode.





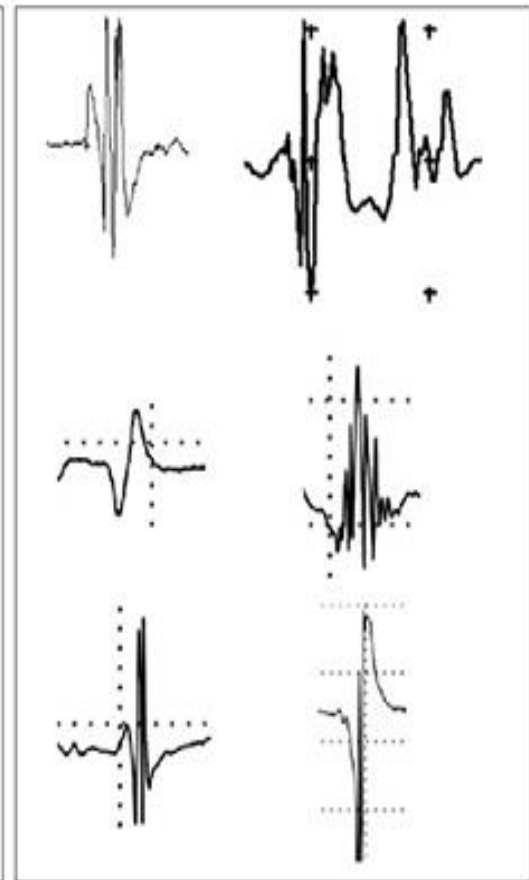
**A** Folders



**B** PSW



**C** Fibs



**D** Others



# \* COMPLEX REPETITIVE DISCHARGES

## مشخصات آن در نیدل

- CRD
- Bizarre high frequency discharges (**BHF**) or **pseudomyotonic**
- Hallmark : start and stop abruptly
- Not stop with nerve block or curare (originate in muscle tissue)
- Frequency: 0.3-150Hz
- Ephaptical pathway
- Pace maker and copaceaker
- Sound: **Heavy machinery** or **idling motorcycle**



# COMPLEX REPETITIVE DISCHARGE

Bizarre high frequency discharges or ✓  
pseudomyotonic discharges

Regularly repeat at 0.3-150 Hz ✓

**Heavy machinery** or an idling motorcycle ✓

A hallmark of these waveforms is that they ✓  
start and stop abruptly

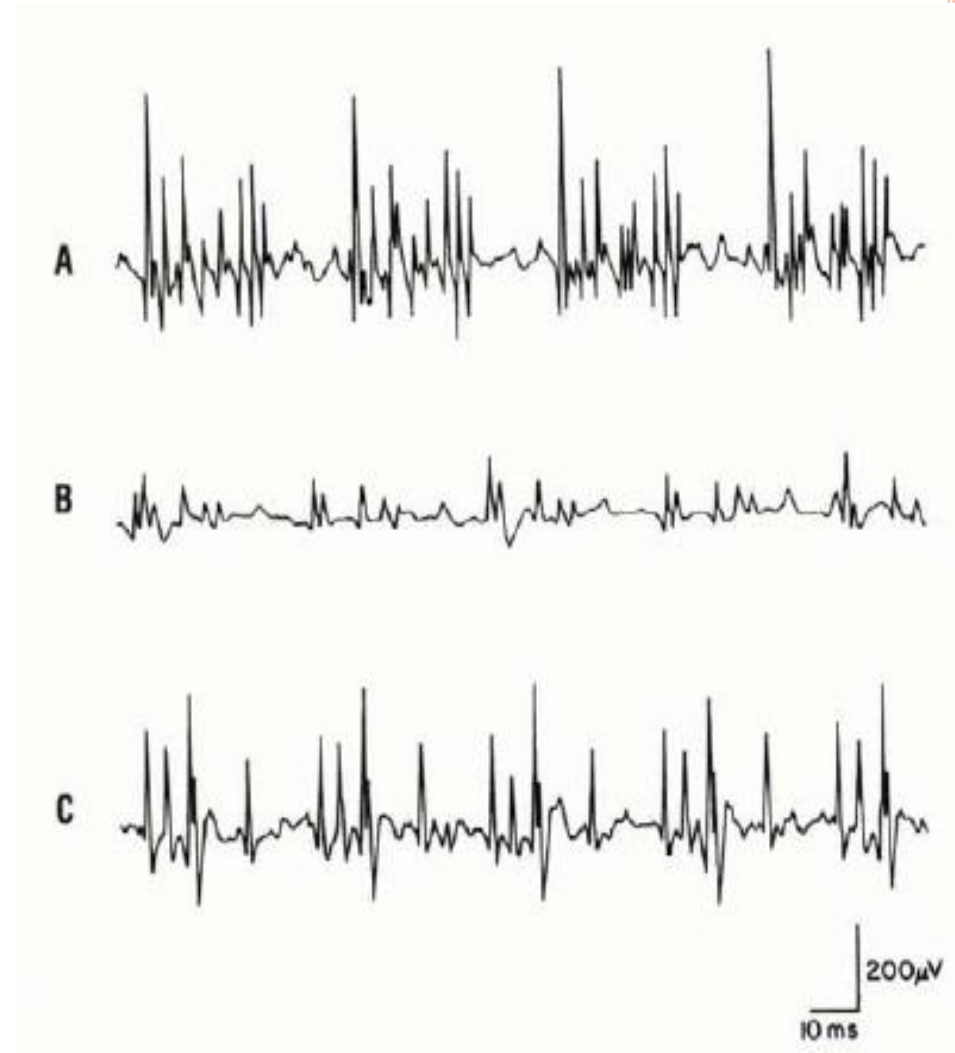
**Nerve block and curare** do not abolish ✓  
(originate in muscle tissue)



➤ Myopathy :  
Polymyositis  
Various forms of muscular dystrophy

➤ Chronic denervation:  
Motor neuron disease  
Radiculopathy  
Polyneuropathy

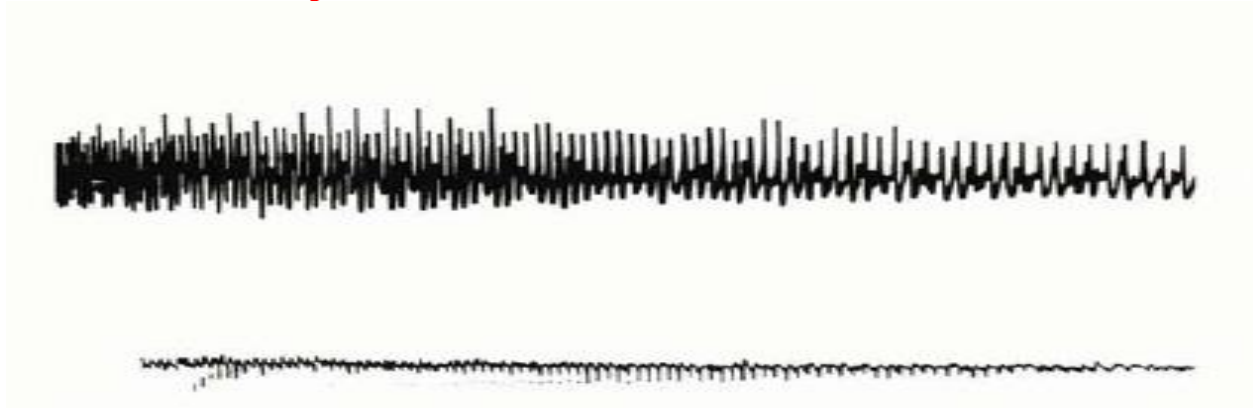
➤ Normal:  
IP  
Biceps



# MYOTONIC DISCHARGE

The phenomenon of delayed muscle relaxation following muscle contraction is referred to as myotonia or action myotonia ➤

The finding of delayed muscle relaxation after reflex activation or induced by striking the muscle belly with a reflex hammer is called **percussion myotonia**. ➤



- Sound likened to a **dive bomber**
- Waxing and waning firing pattern

**Table 7-12. Characteristics of Myotonic Discharges<sup>154</sup>**

Appearance:	Brief spikes/positive waveform
Rhythm:	Wax and wane
Frequency:	20 to 100 Hz
Amplitude:	Variable (20 $\mu$ V to 1 mV)
Stability:	Firing rate alterations
Observed in:	a. Myopathies Myotonic dystrophy Myotonia congenita Paramyotonia Polymyositis Acid maltase deficiency Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis b. Other Chronic radiculopathy Chronic peripheral neuropathy



# QUANTITATIVE DESCRIPTION OF MYOTONI DISCHARGES

1+: discharges should last at least 500 ms and ✓  
be obtained in 3 regions outside of the  
endplate zone

2+: myotonic discharges found in greater than ✓  
one-half of all needle sites

3+: myotonic discharges noted in all areas ✓  
examined secondary to needle movement

These potentials persist after **nerve block**, ➤  
**neuromuscular block** and so they originate  
**muscle membrane itself**





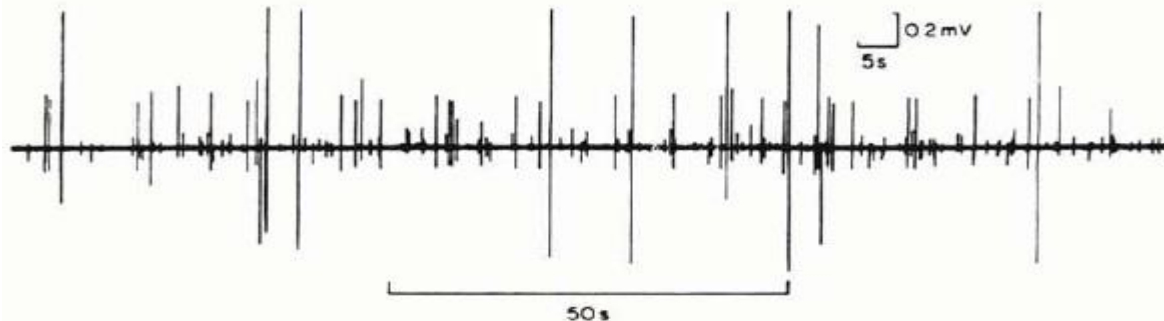


# **NEURAL GENERATORS OF ABNORMAL SPONTANEOUS POTENTIALS**

# FASCICULATION POTENTIALS

**Table 7-13. Characteristics of Fasciculation Potentials<sup>154</sup>**

Appearance:	Variable: normal or complex MUAPs
Rhythm:	Irregular
Frequency:	0.1 to 10 Hz
Amplitude:	> 300 $\mu$ V
Stability:	Stable
Observed in:	a. Normal individuals Spontaneous Following exercise b. Lower motor neuron disorders Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Radiculopathy Peripheral neuropathy Entrapment neuropathy c. Metabolic disorders Thyrotoxicosis Tetany Anticholinesterase medication



# \* FASCICULATION POTENTIALS

**Table 7-13. Characteristics of Fasciculation Potentials<sup>154</sup>**

---

Appearance:	Variable: normal or complex MUAPs
Rhythm:	Irregular
Frequency:	0.1 to 10 Hz
Amplitude:	> 300 $\mu$ V
Stability:	Stable
Observed in:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Normal individuals<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spontaneous</li><li>Following exercise</li></ul></li><li>b. Lower motor neuron disorders<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis</li><li>Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease</li><li>Radiculopathy</li><li>Peripheral neuropathy</li><li>Entrapment neuropathy</li></ul></li><li>c. Metabolic disorders<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Thyrotoxicosis</li><li>Tetany</li><li>Anticholinesterase medication</li></ul></li></ul>

---



Foot intrinsic muscles or gastroc-soleus muscle ✓

Tension or anxiety ,fatigue ✓

Heavy exercise, coffee, smoking ✓

Motor neuron disorders ✓

Radiculopathies ✓

Entrapment neuropathies ✓

Cervical spondylotic myelopathy ✓

Tetany ✓

Thyrotoxicosis ✓

Anticholinesterase overdoses ✓



## \* FASCICULATION POTENTIALS

- Fasciculation :
- visible spontaneous contraction of a portion of muscles
- Normal in **foot intrinsic and GCS**
- Arise from anterior horn cell
- Aggravation with:
  - Anxiety
  - Fatigue
  - Heavay exercise
  - Coffee and smoking
- ✓ Motor neuron disorders
- ✓ Radiculopathies
- ✓ Entrapment neuropathies
- ✓ Cervical spondylotic myelopathy
- ✓ Tetany
- ✓ Thyrotoxicosis
- ✓ Anticholinesterase overdoses



# MYOKYMIC DISCHARGE

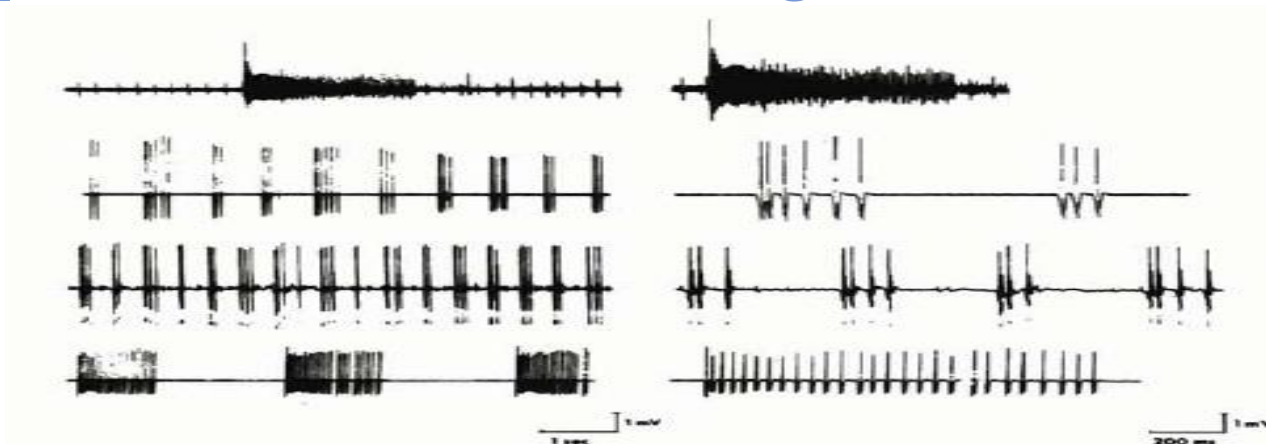
Vermicular (bag of live worms) or continuous ✓  
rippling movement of the skin

0.1-10 Hz in a semirhythmic pattern (regular) ✓

Two to ten potentials within a single burst ✓  
may fire at 20-250 Hz

Not affected by voluntary contraction ✓

Low-powered motor boat engine ✓



## Orbicularis oculi ➤

Focal : fatigue, multiple sclerosis or a brainstem neoplasm ✓

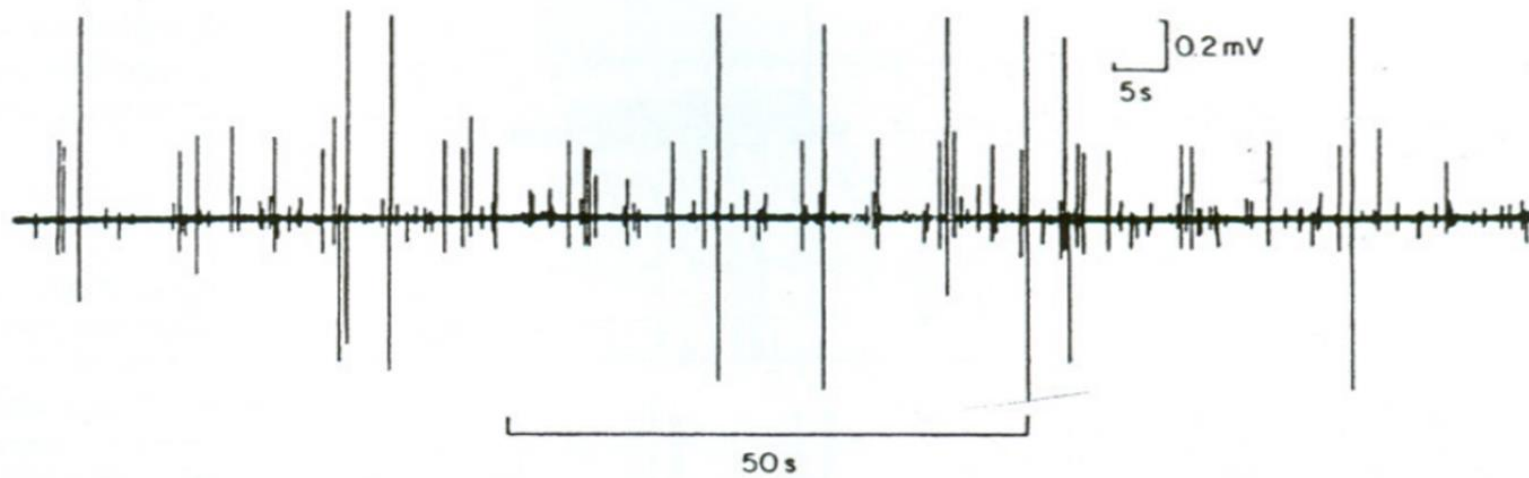
Segmental : syringomyelia or radiculopathies ✓

Generalized : uremia, thyrotoxicosis, inflammatory polyradiculoneuropathy ✓

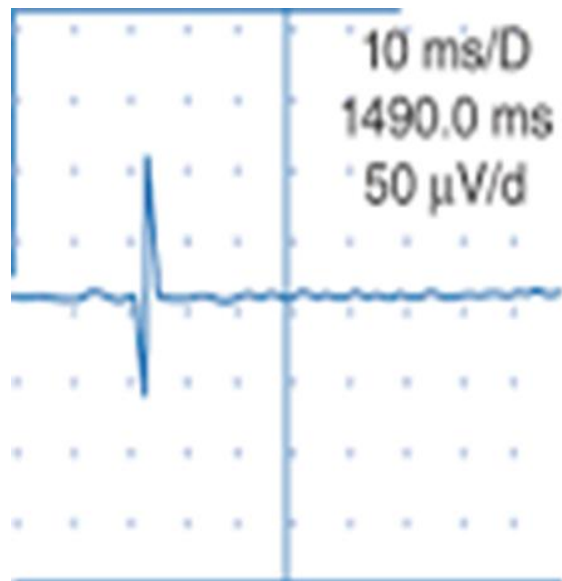
Limb myokymic discharges: radiation plexopathy ✓



# FASCICULATION POTENTIALS

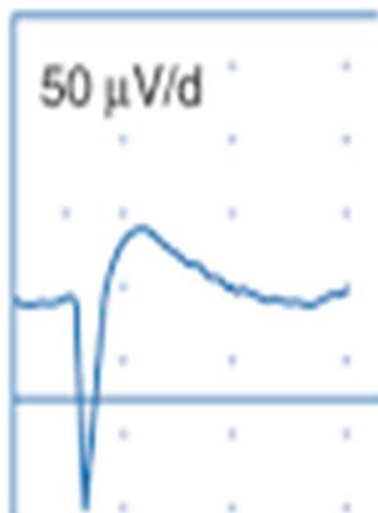






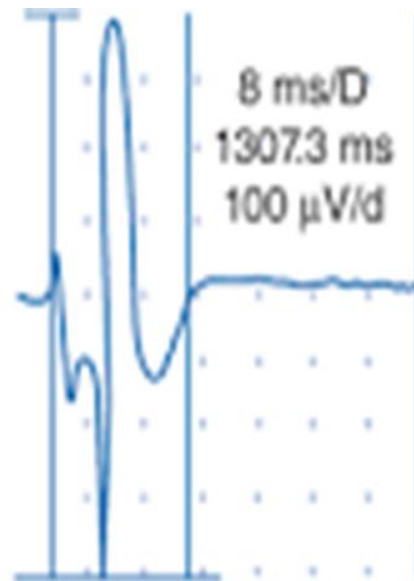
Fibrillations

**A**



Positive sharp waves

**B**



Fasciculations

**C**

Source: John C.M. Brust:  
CURRENT Diagnosis & Treatment: Neurology, Third Edition  
Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.



## \* MYOKIMIC DISCHARGE

- Vermicular movement movement
- Mechanisms: trans axonal ephaptic activation
- Burst of normal MUAP with interburst silence
- Sound : **low power motor boat engine**
- 0.1-10 Hz in a **semirhythmic** pattern (regular)
- Difference with CRD:
  - No regularity in burst of MUs
  - No typical start and stop abruptly
  - They are group of MU but CRD single muscle fiber
- **Normal in orbic. Oculi**

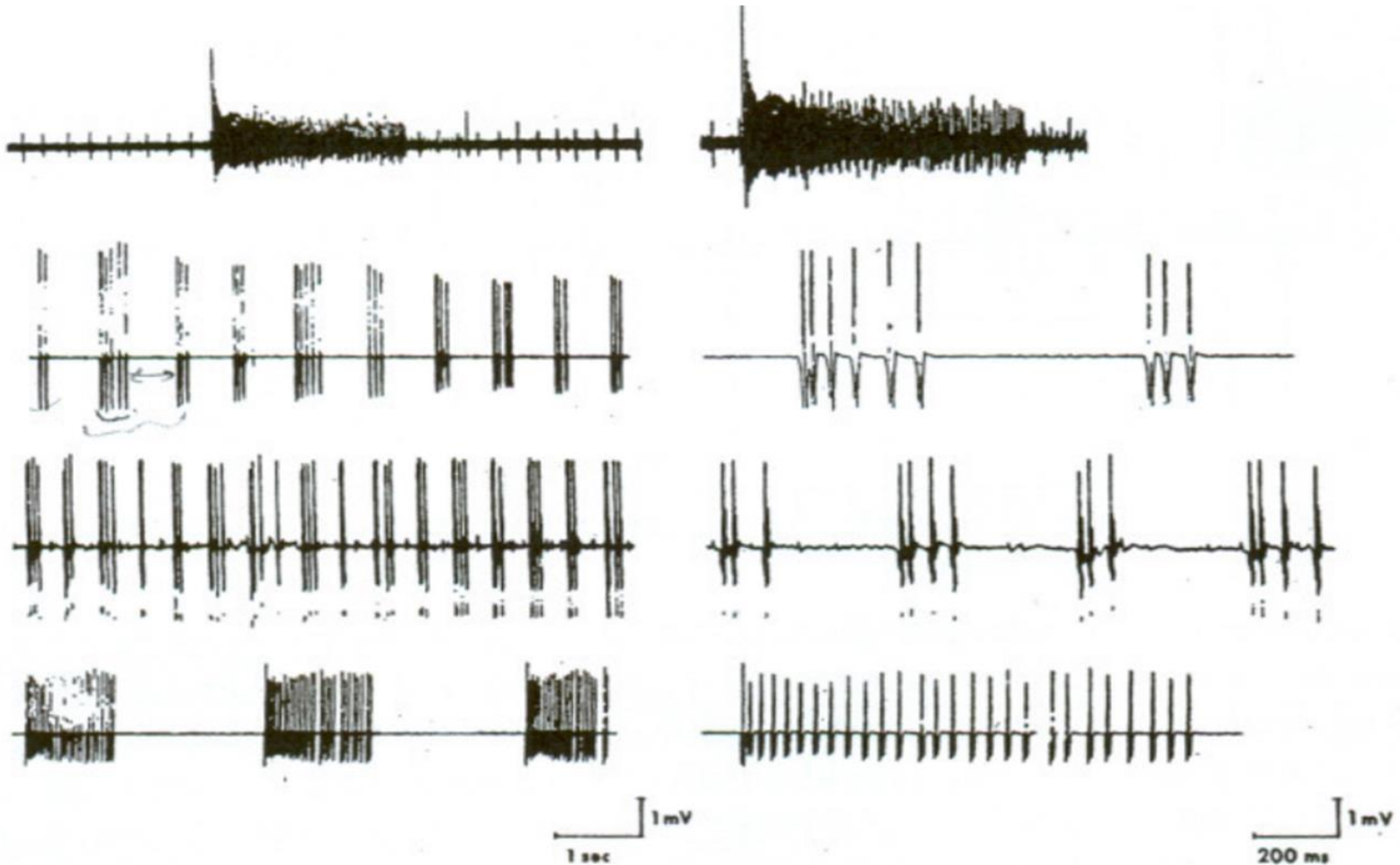


## \* MYOKIMIC DISCHARGE

- ✓ Focal : fatigue, multiple sclerosis or a brainstem neoplasm
- ✓ Segmental : syringomyelia or radiculopathies
- ✓ Generalized : uremia, thyrotoxicosis, inflammatory polyradiculoneuropathy
- ✓ Limb myokymic discharges: radiation plexopathy



# \* MYOKYMIC POTENTIALS





# **CONTINUOUS MUSCLE FIBER ACTIVITY**

# STIFF-MAN SYNDROME

Central nervous system ✓

Sustained firing of motor units ✓

Abolished by: Peripheral nerve block, ✓  
neuromuscular block, spinal block, general  
anesthesia, and sleep, diazepam

But not with : Phenytoin or carbamazepine ✓

Sustained interference pattern in both the ✓

✓ agonists and antagonists

✓ Sustained contraction in chest wall and  
pharynx causes disability & contracture



# ISAACS SYNDROME

Peripheral nervous system ✓

Abolished only by: Neuromuscular block ✓

Not by: Peripheral nerve block, spinal or ✓  
general anesthesia, or sleep

Frequencies up to 300 Hz ✓

Characteristic "pinging" sound ✓

Not influenced by voluntary contraction and ✓  
may be induced by ischemia or electrical nerve  
stimulation



# ISAACS SYNDROME

- antibodies against K-voltage gated channels rendering nerve hyperexcitable and prone to repetitive firing
- a rippling muscle disorder associated sweating and muscle pain
- discharges myokimia, doublet , triplet neuromyotonia with 300 hz are seen





# CRAMPS

Sustained ✓

Painful muscle contractions ✓

Seconds or minutes ✓

Calf muscles or other lower limb muscles ✓  
following exercise

Abnormal positioning ✓

Maintaining a fixed position for a prolonged ✓  
period of time



Hyponatremia ✓

Hypocalcemia ✓

Vitamin deficiency ✓

Ischemia ✓

Early motor neuron disease and peripheral ✓  
neuropathies

Multiple motor units firing synchronously ➤  
between 40 and 60 Hz and occasionally  
reaching 200-300 Hz

Arise from a **peripheral portion** of the motor ➤  
unit



# MULTIPLIET DISCHARGES

A clinical syndrome manifested by ➤ spontaneous muscle twitching, cramps and carpo-pedal spasm is known as tetany.

Peripheral and/or central nervous system ➤

Systemic alkalosis ✓

Hypocalcemia ✓

Hyperkalemia ✓

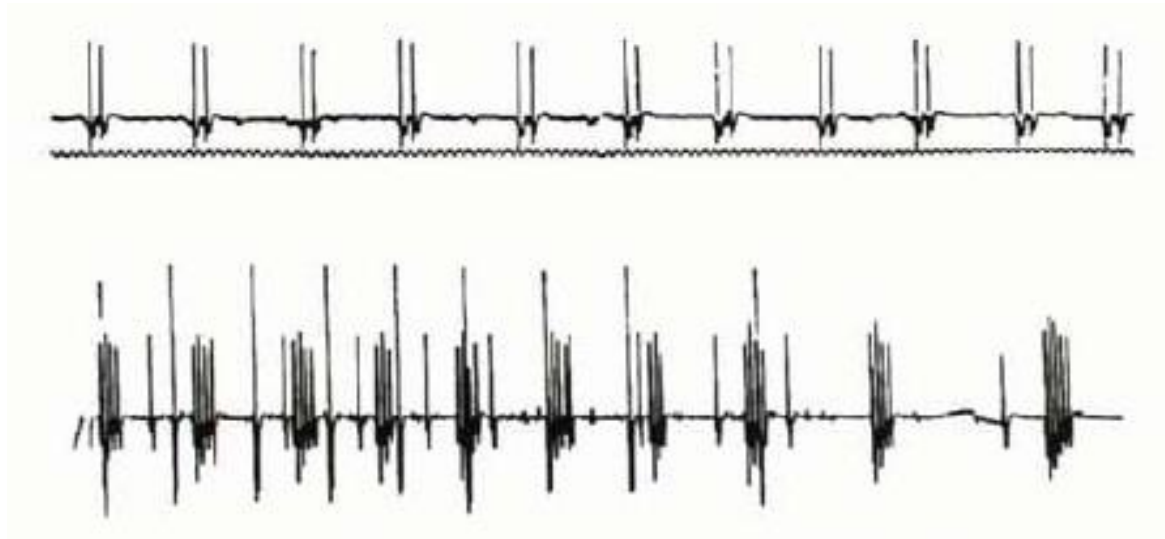
Hypomagnesemia ✓

Local ischemia ✓



Clinically one may induce tetany by tapping the ➤ facial nerve (Chvostek's sign), the peroneal nerve at the fibular head (peroneal sign), and inducing limb ischemia (Trousseau's sign).

A single motor unit potential may fire rather ➤ rapidly with an inter discharge interval of 2-20 ms twice (**doublets**) or three times (**triplets**) or more (**multiplets**).



# TREMOR

Involuntary activation of multiple motor units ✓  
units

Central nervous system ✓

Semi rhythmic pattern ✓



# MOTOR UNIT ACTION POTENTIALS (MUAPS)

The electrical activity typically recorded by a needle electrode placed in a voluntarily contracting muscle is the summation of action potentials resulting from single muscle fibers innervated by one anterior horn cell. This summated electrical activity gives rise to electrical waveforms called motor unit action potentials (MUAPs).



# ANATOMY

There are three types of motor neurons identified:

alpha (skeletal motor) motor neurons (1)

beta (skeletal fusimotor) motor neurons (2)

gamma (fusimotor) motor neurons (3)



## NORMAL IN:?

- ❖ *IA* ---→ Young Male GCS & FDL, Run in AD
- ❖ *Fib* ---→ Intrinsic muscle in foot, Para spinal L5  
in older person or Diabet+
- ❖ *CRD* ---→ BB , IP
- ❖ *Fasic* ---→ Intrinsic muscle in foot, GCS
- ❖ *Cramp* ---→ Calf muscles
- ❖ *Myokimic discharge* ---→ orbicularis Oculi &  
Oris





# SOUNDS

- ❖ *MEPPs* ---→ Seashel murmur
- ❖ *EPS* ---→ Crackling
- ❖ *Fib* ---→ High pitched: crackling cellophane or rain  
Sound like rain on the roof
- ❖ *PSW* ---→ Dull pop
- ❖ *CRD* ---→ Heavy machinery or idling motorcycle
- ❖ *Myotonic discharge* ---→ Drive bomb
- ❖ *Myokimic discharge* ---→ Motor boat engine,  
sputtering
- ❖ *Neuromyotony* ---→ Pinging



- ❖ ***Fib & PSW*** ---→ Acute or Ongoing process in muscle, NMJ or nerve
- ❖ ***CRD*** ---→ Chronic process, Schwatz jumple
- ❖ ***Myotonic discharge*** ---→ Myotonic dystrophy, Acid maltaz dificiency ( pompe), ↑ KPP
- ❖ ***Fasi*** ---→ Cervical myelopathy, thyrotoxicosis, Anti colinesteraz
- ❖ ***Neuromyotonic discharge*** ---→ SMA, Anti colinesteraz , Ischemia
- ❖ ***Cramp*** ---→ ↓ Ca ↓ Na , ↓ Vit, Ischemia, Mac Ardel
- ❖ ***Myokimic discharge*** ---→ Radiation plx,
- ❖ ***Multiplet*** ---→ ↓ Ca , ↓ Mg , ↑ K, ↑ PH, Local Ischemia



## زمان مناسب برای انجام EDX:

- در رادیولوژی: 4 هفته یا 1 ماه بعد از شروع درد
- در پلکسوپاتی و ارب: 2 هفته بعد از شروع آسیب اولیه
- در بلز پالزی: 5 روز بعد از شروع
- در ترومای صورت: 6 روز بعد از آسیب
- در ترومای اندام: 3-4 هفته بعد از آسیب



# \_ NEURAL LOSS

- 2 process after denervation:
- Re-growth 2-3 mm/day
- Collateral sprouting
- Point of node of Ranvier
- Bunds of bungler : remaining Schwann cell sheaths
- Each MN : support 4-5 times
- So 20 % remaining could cover others
- **Fiber types grouping**
- 2 weeks
- MU territory remain unchanged



# NEURAL LOSS

If a muscle is completely denervated by a lesion affecting the motor neurons or the peripheral nerve, there will be a **complete absence of MUAPs**. Fibrillation potentials and PSWs will appear in great abundance following an appropriate period of time.

A partial nerve lesion, however, may result in profuse fibrillations and PSWs, with **preservation of some MUAPs**.

A muscle that is totally denervated can be reinnervated only by **regrowth** of the peripheral nerve along its original course.



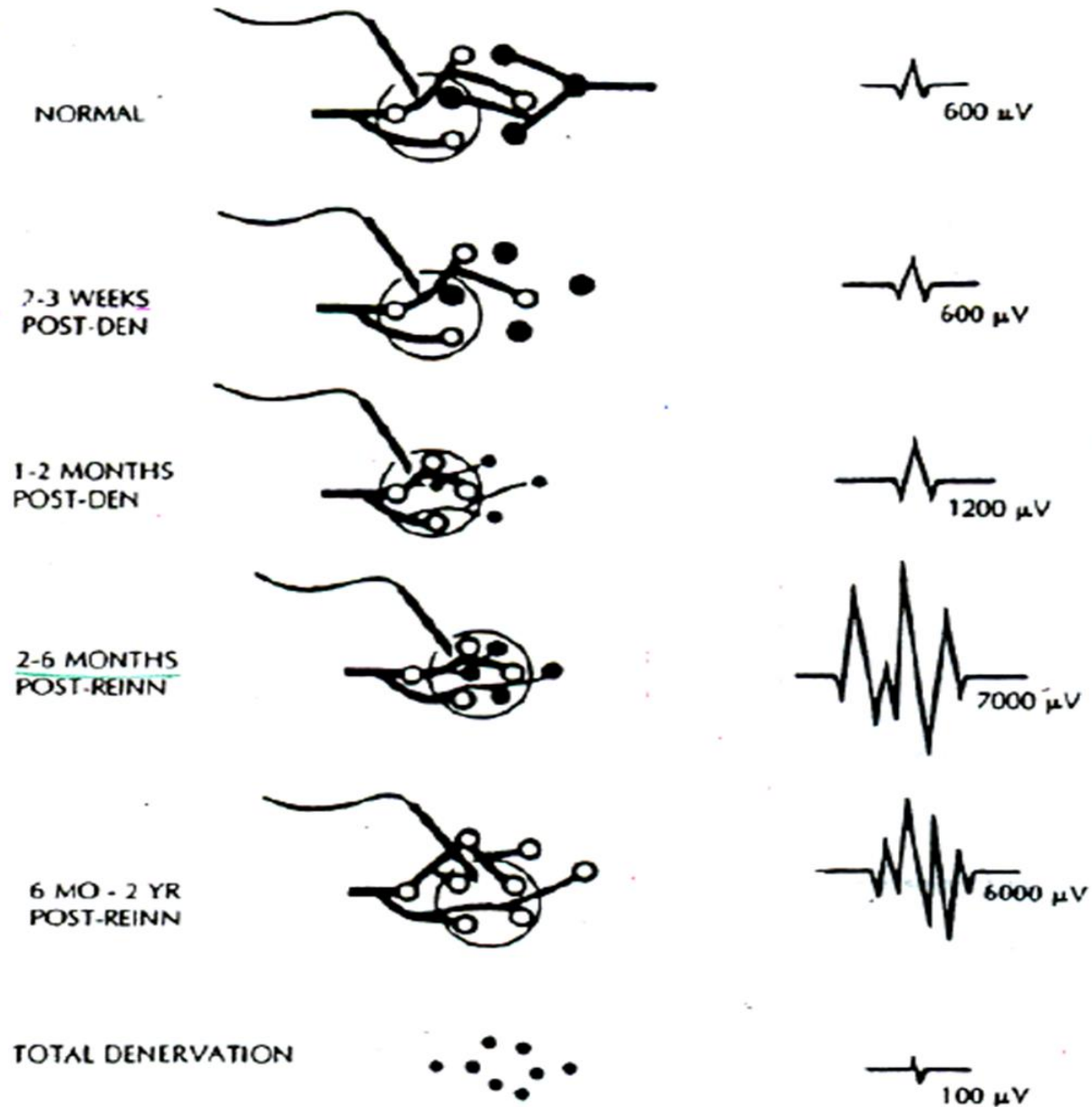
A partially denervated muscle will consist of denervated motor units and intact motor units. The motor units deprived of their innervation may be reinnervated by one of two mechanisms, 1. The first process involves a **regrowth** of axons along the previous neural pathways. **Neural regrowth** occurs at approximately **3-4 mm per day**.

2. The second manner in which denervated muscle fibers can be reinnervated is through **collateral sprouting**.

The minimum number of surviving motor units theoretically required to reinnervate the muscle completely, therefore, is 20% (i.e., 80% of motor units lost).



# MOTOR UNIT REMODELING





Normal MUAP



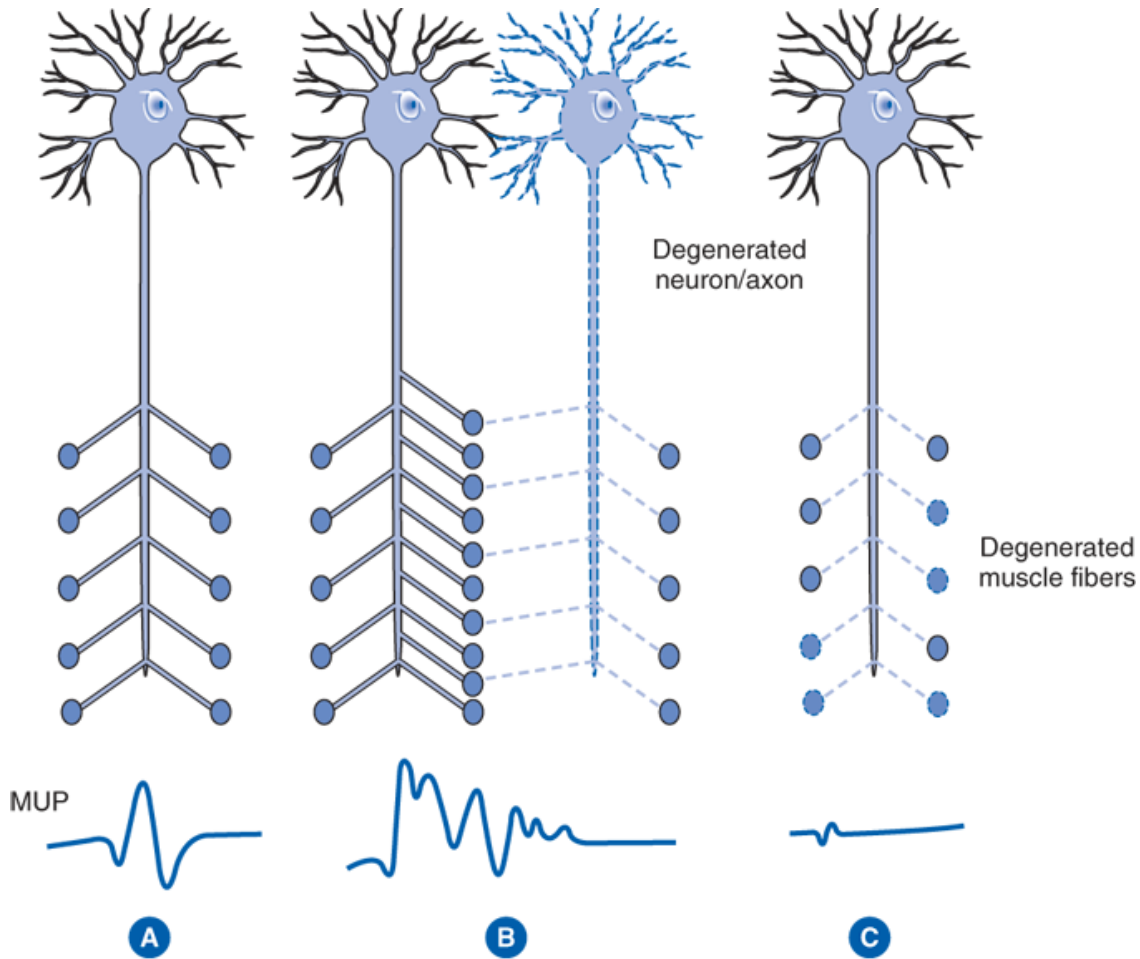
Neuropathic MUAP



Myopathic MUAP







Source: John C.M. Brust:  
 CURRENT Diagnosis & Treatment: Neurology, Third Edition  
 Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.



# Neurogenic Recruitment

**Table 7-15. Neurogenic Recruitment**

1st (A)	Motor Unit Recruited		
	2nd (B)	3rd (C)	4th (D)
A (20 Hz)			
A (25 Hz)	0	0	
A (30 Hz)	0	0	D (20 Hz)

Motor unit A begins firing at 20 Hz because motor units B and C are not present. When motor unit A fires at 30 Hz, motor unit D finally becomes active at 20 Hz. The recruitment pattern is altered, and fewer motor units are firing at higher than anticipated rates.



# MUSCLE LOSS

A number of primary muscle diseases are characterized by a disease process that randomly affects muscle fibers throughout the muscle as a whole. The effect is to **reduce the number of muscle fibers** comprising each motor unit. Muscle fibers still innervated also demonstrate an **increase in variation of muscle fiber diameter**. The loss of muscle fibers combined with fiber size changes may lead to a reduced motor unit territory.



# \_ MUSCLE LOSS

- Muscle fiber loss
- Muscle fibers approximated but no electrical summation
- Fiber type grouping also occur



# MUAP FINDINGS IN MUSCLE DISEASE

- MUAP duration decreased
- Increase number of phase
- **Fiber splitting** and slow conduction:
  - **Satellite** potential
    - 10% in normal
    - 12 % in neuropathy
    - 45 % in myopathy
    - Responsible for abnormal long duration 60 ms
- Large MUAP: needle near hypertrophic fibers
- Segmental necrosis : Fib/PSW

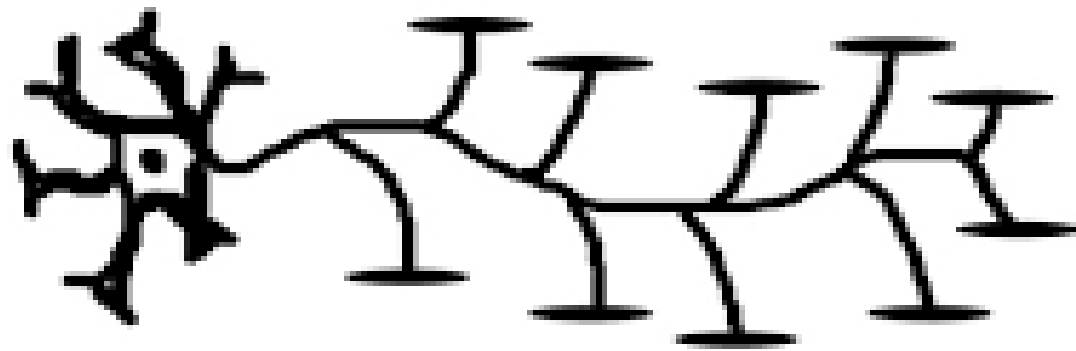


# MYOGENIC RECRUITMENT

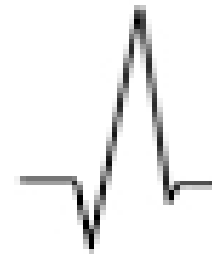
- Increased MU firing
- Early or increased recruitment
- Recruitment **ratio**  $< 3$

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
15	15	15	15	15





Normal



Myopathy

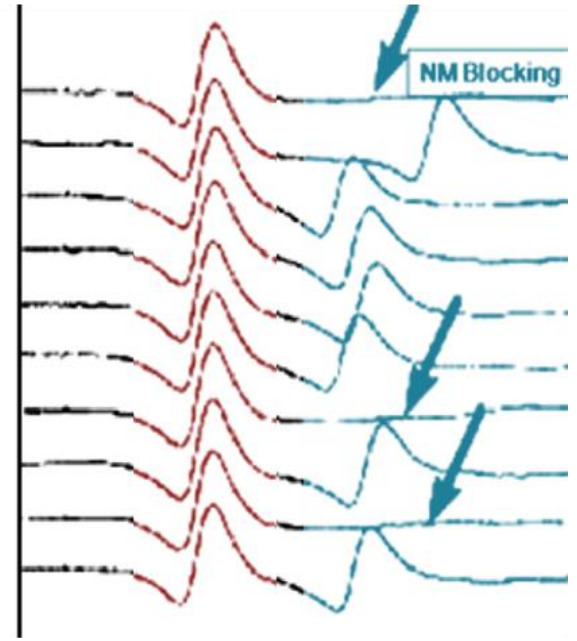
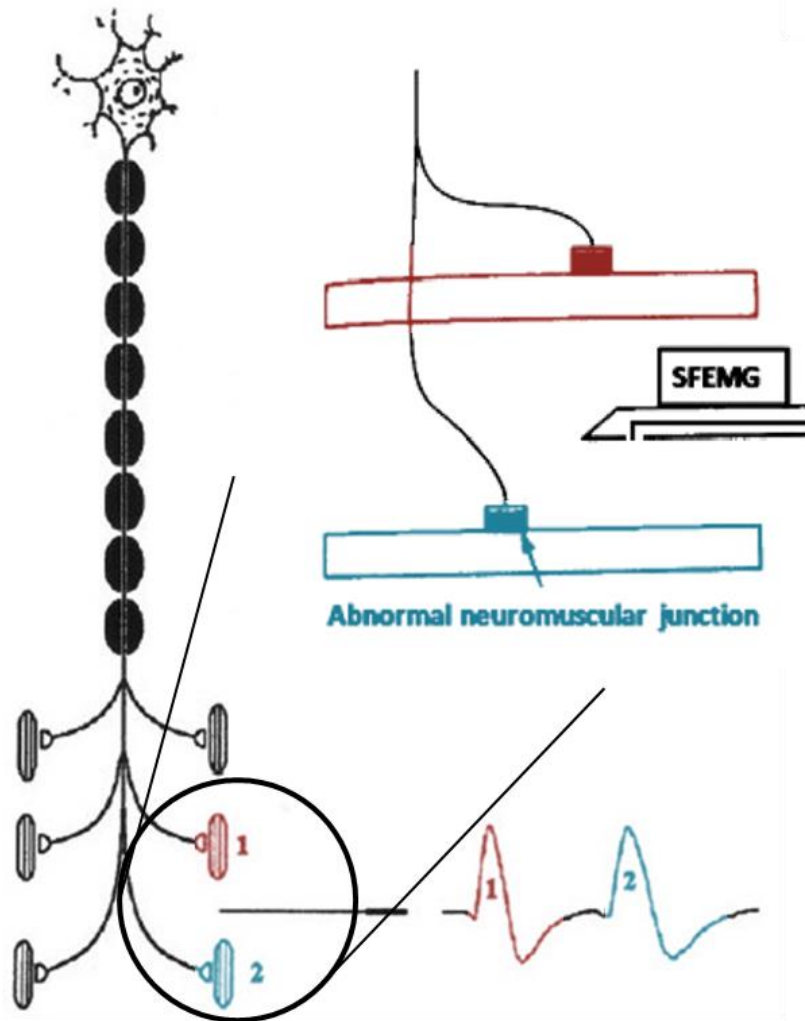


# MUAP IN NMJ

- Presynaptic
  - Botulism
  - Lambert-Eaton syndrome [show](#)
- Synaptic space:
  - Organophosphate
  - Congenital disorders
- Postsynaptic
  - Medication ,
  - MG
- 1&2 : MU variability







# OTHER ENTITY

- CVA
  - First MU 7-8 firing rate
  - Second MU 10-15
  - diminished degree of voluntary control
- Additional waveforms:
  - 50-60 Hz
  - EKG 1Hz
  - Pacemaker



- Several points:
- The most painful muscles in needle exam:
  - 1. cervical paraspinals
  - 2. lumbosacral paraspinals
  - 3. hand intrinsic muscles
- Relative contraindications for needle exam:
  - platelet count  $< 50000$
  - $PT > 1.5-2$  times a control value
  - heparin therapy and  $PTT > 1.5-2$  times a control value
  - in hemophilia initially factors optimized then
  - In lymphedema it should be limited.



## EMG in Myopathies

- **During Voluntary activity** motor unit potentials (**MUP**) ie. are recorded and **MUP phase** are studied
- $\geq 5$ , phases are called polyphasic.
- Acute myopathy: MUP are small in amplitude, short duration and polyphasic.
- Chronic myopathy: MUP are large and of longer duration.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

