

– Abstract –

Electrodiagnostic Pitfalls

Hee Kyu Kwon, M.D.

Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, College of Medicine, Korea University

Nerve conduction studies and needle electromyography are the two basic component of the electrodiagnostic assessment. The clinical evaluation of electrophysiologic signals that forms the basis of electrodiagnostic medicine is subject to a number of potential errors. These are errors related to the electrodiagnostic examination and interpretative and judgement errors. Errors related to the electrodiagnostic examination include technical and basic documentation errors. Interpretative and judgement errors are composed of anatomic, physiologic, and diagnostic judgement errors. The pitfalls of the needle examination is also included in this category. Some errors are important because of the frequency with which they occur, whereas others are important because of the resultant consequences.

In this review, potential error thought to be most important are discussed either because of their frequency of occurrence or because of the consequences of their appearance.

Key Words : Technical error, Documentation error, Interpretative error, Judgement error

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Address reprint requests to Hee Kyu Kwon, M.D.
 Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Korea University College of Medicine,
 # 126-1 Anam-dong 5-ga, Sungbuk-gu, Seoul, 136-075, Korea
 Tel : 82-2-920-5463, Fax : 82-2-929-9951, e-mail : hkkwon97@chollian.net

가

가

가

(phase) 가 (Fig. 1).^{2,3} High frequency filter 500 Hz~10 KHz

가

1. 가 (Fig. 2).^{2,3}

1) 2 Hz~10 KHz,

(1) 2 Hz~2 KHz,

low frequency filter 2~3 Hz,

20 Hz, high frequency

filter 20 KHz 10 KHz

(3)

가

가

가^{4,5}

(2)

low-frequency filter high-fre-

quency filter . Low frequency filter

high pass filter high frequency

low fre-

quency high frequency filter low

pass filter low frequency

high frequency

(signal) 가 high

frequency low frequency

(subcomponent)

가 4 cm

가 0.8 msec, 가 50 m/sec

0.8 msec

가

4 cm (4

cm / 0.8 msec)

(phase can-

cellation)

. Low frequency filter 1~500 Hz

(Fig. 3).^{3,6}

가 4

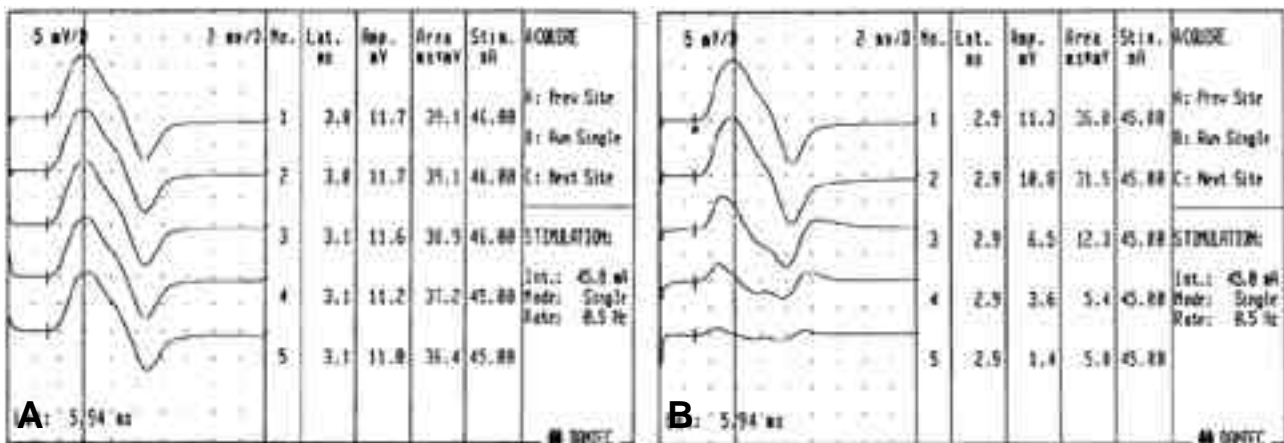


Fig. 1. High and low frequency filter effects on motor action potentials (CMAPs). A) CMAPs after modification of high frequency filter (HFF). From the top trace, 10 KHz, 5 KHz, 2 KHz, 1 KHz and 0.5 KHz; low frequency filter (LFF), 1 Hz. B) CMAPs after elevation of LFF. From the top trace, 1 Hz, 10 Hz, 100 Hz, 300 Hz; HFF, 10 KHz.

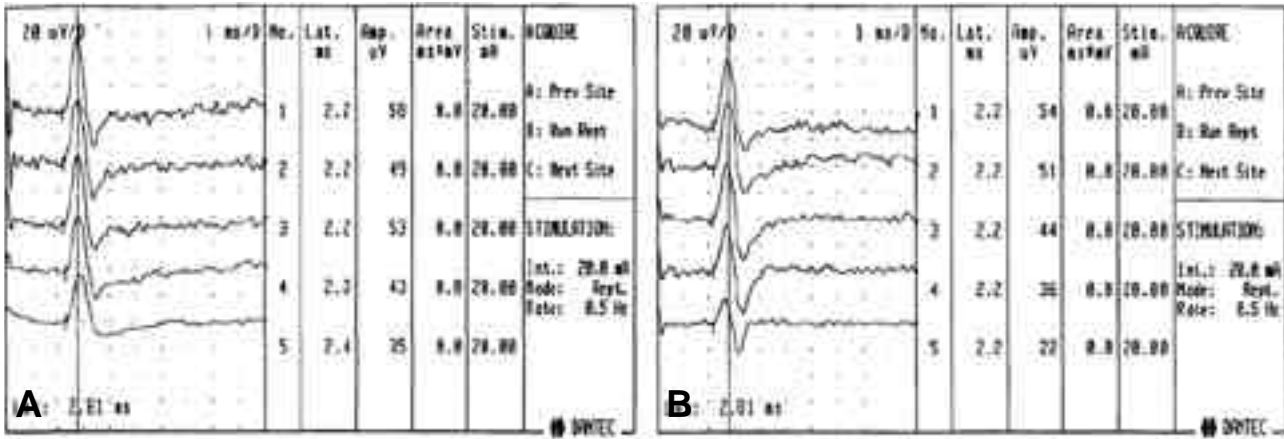


Fig. 2. High and low frequency filter effects on sensory nerve action potentials (SNAPs). A) SNAPs after modification of high frequency filter (HFF). From the top trace, 10 KHz, 5 KHz, 2 KHz, 1 KHz, and 0.5 KHz; low frequency filter (LFF), 1 KHz. B) SNAPs after elevation of LFF. From the top trace, 1 Hz, 10 Hz, 100 Hz, 300 Hz; HFF, 10 KHz.

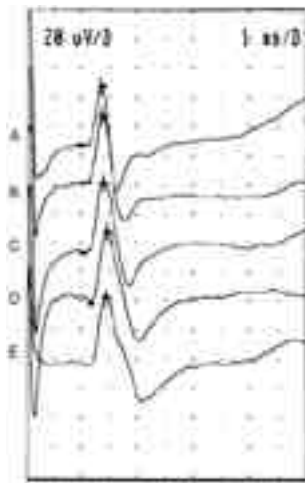


Fig. 3. Median sensory action potentials recorded in different interelectrode distance Onset latency; Peak latency; Baseline to peak amplitude; Duration: A (1 cm), 2.3 ms; 2.7 ms; 41 uV; 0.9 ms; B (2 cm), 2.3 ms; 2.8 ms; 43 uV; 1.2 ms; C (3 cm), 2.3 ms; 2.8 ms; 46 uV; 1.4 ms; D (4 cm), 2.3 ms; 2.9 ms; 49 uV; 1.7 ms; E (5 cm), 2.3 ms; 2.9 ms; 49 uV; 1.9 ms

가 가
 .6 가
 가
 10 cm
 가
 (sweep speed) 가
 (gel) 가
 salt bridge가 electrolyte bridge,
 가
 .5 가
 가
 .2
 (stimulus artifact)
 가
 가
 .2
 (impedence)
 .2
 (4) 가 (anodal (5)
 block) 가 (sensitivity) (sweep speed)
 가 (compound motor action potential)
 .7

20 cm
20~25%
20~33%
(Fig. 4).⁹⁻¹¹

(Fig. 5).¹²

(6)

가
가

2.
1)

(1) Martin-Gruber (anastomosis)
가

(thenar muscle)
가

high input impedance가

internal clock

2)
(1) (referral)

가

(2) (procedure)

가

(3) 가 (interpretation)

(antecubital fossa)

가

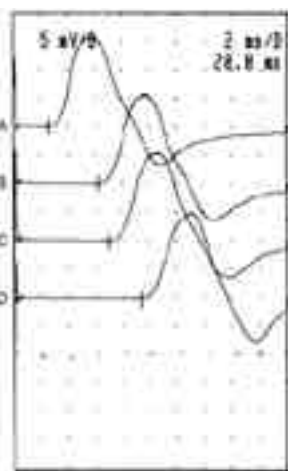


Fig. 4. Segmental motor conduction study. Stimulation site: A, wrist (15.6 mV); B, elbow (15.5 mV); C, above elbow (15.3 mV); D, axilla (15.2 mV).

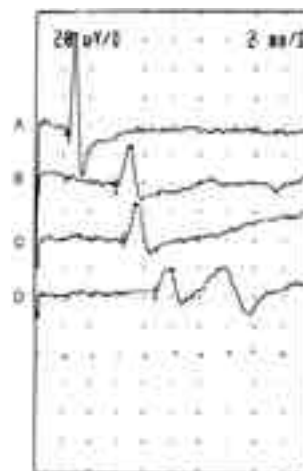


Fig. 5. Segmental sensory conduction study. Stimulation site: A, wrist (69 uV); B, elbow (27 uV); C, elbow (24 uV); D, above elbow (14 uV).

(2) Riche-Cannieu (recurrent) 가

(thenar muscle) 2) (1) 4 (myeline)가

60 H 가

(3) (accessory peroneal nerve) 가

(external digitorum brevis) (3) 가 가

(4) 가 가

가 가

(popliteal fossa) (sodium channel) 가, (Fig. 6)!

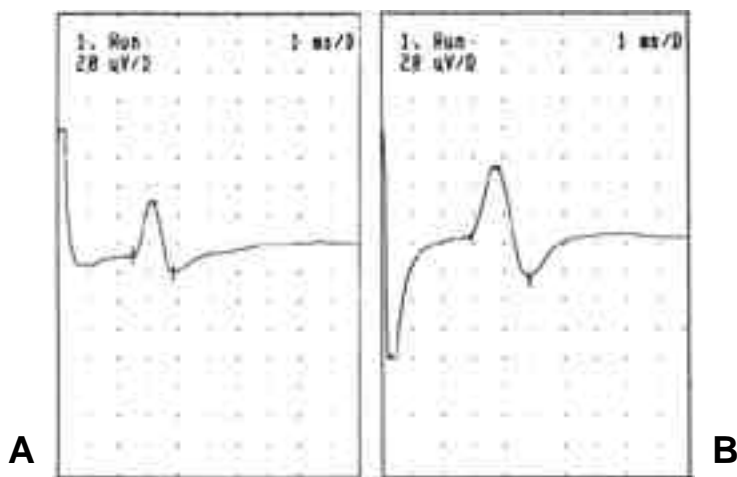


Fig. 6. Median sensory action potentials recorded at 34°C (A) and 28°C (B). A: onset latency, 2.5 msec; amplitude, 38 uV B: onset latency, 2.9 msec; amplitude, 50 uV.

(sodium inactivation)가

가
dispersion)

가
(temporal

3)

가

가
가 (false negative)

(1)

^{.13}

(mobilization facilitation),

(brief runs)

가

가

(5)

가

가 가

가

가

40~300 usec

2

가

가

^{.13}

가

가

가

2

+1

^{.13}

가

1

3.5%,

10%

(intrinsic muscle)

가

가

가

7~10

3

Daube

18

70

53

^{.13} 1991

가

13%

20%

가

(biphasic end plate potential)

(concentric needle electrode)

가

가

(cannula)가

(recruitment pattern)

가

(polarity)

가

가

가

가

가 (artifacts) (biphasic) 가
 가 (diathermy), 200 uV, 5 usec, ¹⁵
 (fluorescent light)
 (complex repetitive discharge), 가
 (talc-covered glove)
¹³ 가

가 가 (recruitment) 가
 가 가 ^{15,16}
 가 가 ¹⁷⁻¹⁹
 가 가 (recruitment interval) 가
 (Fig. 7). ¹⁸⁻²¹

가 가 ^{13,18,19} 가
 가 100 msec, 10 Hz
 가 (recruitment frequency) 가 ^{9,18}
 가 가 15 Hz
 가 가 ^{13,18,19}
 가 가 3 가 ¹⁶

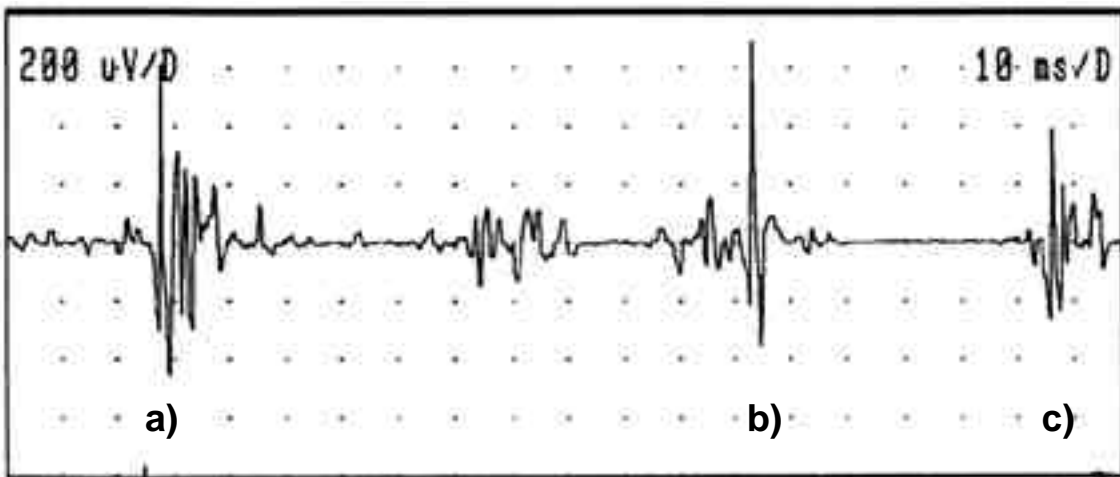


Fig. 7. Monopolar recording of tibialis anterior in a patient with L4 radiculopathy. Two motor unit potentials (b and c) overlap, giving the appearance of polyphasic motor unit potential (a).

가

¹³
(interference pattern) 가

2)
가 4/5 가

(firing frequency) 가

40 Hz , “consistent with” “diagnostic of”
10~30 Hz , “consistent with” “(clinical correlation is recommended)”
(3) ¹³ “

col) (proto-
95 percentile

4)
(1) “ ” “ ”

가

(Table 1).
가

(2) 1
가

1)

Table 1. Electrodiagnostic Findings of Particular Diagnostic Importance

Finding	Diagnostic Implication
Myokymic discharges	Radiation-induced plexopathy/radiculopathy
Profound multiple partial conduction blocks	Multifocal motor neuropathy
Myotonic discharge	One of the myotonic disorders
Diffuse “positive waves”	“EMG disease” versus myotonic disorder

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