



## NEWSLETTER

EMGs are commonly associated with MRIs in insurance claims. Just like in the field of radiology, quality and specialization matters when it comes to EMGs.

Electrodiagnostic medicine exams, most commonly referred to as EMGs, have loose requirements on who can perform the testing and several loopholes exist that pave the way for poor quality and fraud in this area. In fact, poor quality and abuse is so rampant in EMGs that A4D's Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. John Robinton, presented on the topic at the recent Texas Association of Special Investigation Units. During his presentation, Dr. Robinton, a practicing neurologist with additional credentials in neurophysiology, explained the parts of an EMG exam, commonly seen diagnoses in EMG like carpal tunnel syndrome, and qualifications for those doing the exams.

Often when an MRI is ordered, an EMG test follows soon after. These claim "twins" frequently serve to inflate payouts and create the illusion of injury. This happens in one of two ways - through providers that knowingly commit fraud or through poor quality providers who turn in reports that aren't medically useful. **In a study assessing the medical usefulness of EMG reports, 68% of 140 reports were considered to be not medically useful.**<sup>1</sup>

What does not medically useful mean? It means that the study is so poor that it would be reckless to utilize it to drive patient care, if not downright dangerous. How do you avoid poor quality EMGs? The American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) makes it simple to find a physician who is qualified to perform these tests.

The AANEM is the gold standard when it comes to EMG quality. This organization issues credentials to providers and sets national standards of care for EMG testing. Doctors (most often neurologists or physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians) can obtain additional certifications through the AANEM and become ABEM certified. The best providers will be ABEM certified and the best labs will be accredited by the AANEM. You can find a certified provider or lab by visiting <https://ww2.authentic4d.com/e/756213/Patients-Find-a-Specialist/wtvpd/163259335?h=ONqgpRuyuNLfaNQCDhK5fehBew39z9V-4l7ny3sq4BQ>.

MRIs and EMGs are complimentary tests. Together they paint the entire clinical picture and should reach the same conclusion. To learn more about EMG quality or about how MRIs and EMGs fit together like pieces of a puzzle, visit the "EMG" or "EMG and MRI" tab under "Seekers of Truth" at <https://ww2.authentic4d.com/e/756213/2021-10-28/wtvpb/163259335?h=ONqgpRuyuNLfaNQCDhK5fehBew39z9V-4l7ny3sq4BQ>.

Dr. John Robinton  
*Fellow of the Academy of Neurology*  
*Board Certified in Neurology and Neurophysiology*  
*by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology*  
*Authentic4D Chief Clinical Officer*  
[www.authentic4d.com](http://www.authentic4d.com)  
[www.Linkedin.com](http://www.Linkedin.com)

Source:

J.E. Robinton, MD; A.L. Seidner, MD, MPH; J.M. Pearson, RN, CNA . *Evaluation Of The Medical Usefulness Of Electrodiagnostic Reports By Physicians Not Prequalified To Meet Set Standards.*

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**Our mailing address is:**

Authentic4D  
30800 Telegraph Rd, Ste 4775  
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-4536

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