

Hot Tips Report

ID	0028	Description	Troubleshooting ECG Artifact
Date	7/21/2005 3:40:30 PM		
Manager	ADMIN	Status	Active

Text **Troubleshooting Artifact in an ECG Tracing**

Problem

Artifact can occur for a variety of different reasons:

1. Incorrect lead placement
2. Failure to properly prep the patient (i.e. not using enough conductive materials (alcohol, gel, etc.)
3. Artifact create by excessive muscle movement or electrical interference
4. Faulty lead wires

Solution

To avoid artifact complete the following:

1. Ensure the patient is properly prepared and the lead is securely connected:
 - a. If necessary, Shave the electrode sites
 - b. Thoroughly clean the areas and allow to dry
 - c. Prep skin by briskly rubbing with gauze, being careful not to break or damage the skin.
 - d. Apply each electrode, adhesive side down to desired site.
 - e. For positive electrode contact, start from outer edge and run your finger around the electrode several times, working toward the centre.
 - f. Connect the cables to the patient ensuring correct lead placement (see User's Manual).
2. Turn the Muscle and/or Power filter on (consult the User's Manual) to eliminate muscle movement or electrical interference artifact

If taking the steps outlined above does not eliminate or reduce the artifact contact Technical Support.
