

Neuromuscular Transmission

Monitoring of neuromuscular block in five easy steps.

1. Attach MechanoSensor to the patient's hand with tape. The monitor will start measurement by setting the stimulus current automatically and by performing a reference measurement. With the unrelaxed patient, TOF% is 100.
2. Non-depolarizing relaxants cause a fade in the responses, indicated by a lower TOF% and a slope in the bar graph. Depolarizing relaxants result in an equal drop in all four responses, without fade.
3. Neuromuscular block can be used to facilitate endotracheal intubation. The physician can use the time when all responses disappear (i.e. TOF Count is 0) as a guide to determine when to intubate.
4. During surgery and in critical care, TOF Count is used for maintaining steady optimal level of neuromuscular block. When TOF Count exceeds a level set by the user, the monitor will give a "Block recovery" message.
5. When using an antagonist, it should not be given before TOF count rises to 4. For safer extubation, TOF% should be higher than 90.

