

PERFORM Operating Document

TeleMyo Direct Transmission System (DTS) for Surface Electromyography (EMG)

PC-POD-FA-001-v01

Revision History

Version	Reason for Revision	Date
01	New POD	Jan/16/2015

Summary

The content of this PERFORM Operating Document (POD) provides guidelines for:

- Operation of the TeleMyo DTS hardware
- Skin preparation and electrode placement
- Use of MyoResearch XP Master Edition software
- Use of TeleMyo DTS with VICON Motion Capture

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I. Definition of Terms

Ant.	Anterior
Abd.	Abdominis
I.	Inferior
M.	Middle
S.	Superior
.csv	Comma-Separated Values file type
.txt	Text file type
DSSS	Direct-Sequence Spread Spectrum
DTS	Direct Transmission System
ECG	Electrocardiography
EMG	Electromyography
sEMG	Surface EMG
MVC	Maximum Voluntary Contraction
MRXP	MyoResearch XP Master Edition
SENIAM	Surface ElectroMyoGraphy for the Non-Invasive Assessment of Muscles
RMS	Root Mean Square

2. Introduction

The TeleMyo™ Direct Transmission System (DTS) for surface electromyography (EMG) directly transmits data from the electrode or sensor site to the receiver. This direct transmission concept greatly simplifies the arrangement of EMG measurements by eliminating the need to arrange cable connections between the EMG electrodes and EMG amplifier. The small, light-weight probes are also beneficial for small subjects like children and older adults. The Belt Receiver can operate in 3 modes:

1. Direct connection to any PC via USB connection (transmission range 10m)
2. Wireless retransmission of signals in real time to any Noraxon USB receiver (transmission range up to 100m)
3. Data logging via Flash Memory card

These features give you flexibility to operate the DTS system without physical limitations. The compatibility to Noraxon's USB receiver systems, operated via WiFi based retransmission of data, allows you to integrate up to 8 additional stationary analog input signals and optional analog output of all signals (i.e. connect signals to the VICON motion capture system).

The current DTS system operates up to 16 channels, and is equipped with EMG preamplifiers, but can be integrated with other biomechanical sensors like goniometers, foot switches, etc.

As a user, you must first decide if you will be using the EMG system on its own, or in conjunction with other equipment. The system is synchronized with the Vicon motion capture system, but can be synchronized with other Functional Assessment (FA) devices.

This document will explain the setup of the TeleMyo DTS EMG system on its own, and the setup for the system in conjunction with the Vicon system.

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2.1 TeleMyo DTS Specifications

Power Requirements

- Replaceable Li-ion rechargeable battery, operation time more than 8 hours after fully charged

Belt Receiver Output & Transmission Frequency (Depending on country)

- Up to 100 mW (depending on antenna and country allowance)
- WiFi DSSS 2412-2464 MHz on (up to) 11 selectable radio channels
- Belt Receiver Re-Transmission range: up to 100 meters in line-of-sight recordings

DTS Probe Output & Transmission Frequency

- Transmission range: 10m
- Output power: 4mW
- DSSS 2400-2472 MHz on 5 selectable radio channels

EMG Sensor Data Acquisition System

- 16-bit resolution
- Sample rates 1,500 (for 16-channels)
- Selectable low pass filter 500, 1000, 1500 Hz

EMG Sensor PreAmps

- No notch (50/60 Hz) filters are used
- 1st order high-pass filters set to 10 Hz +/- 10% cutoff
- Baseline noise < 1 uV RMS
- Input impedance > 100 Mohm
- CMR > 100 dB
- Input range +/- 3.5 mV
- Base gain 400
- Snap-style or Pinch-style terminal electrode connections
- Rechargeable Lithium Polymer battery

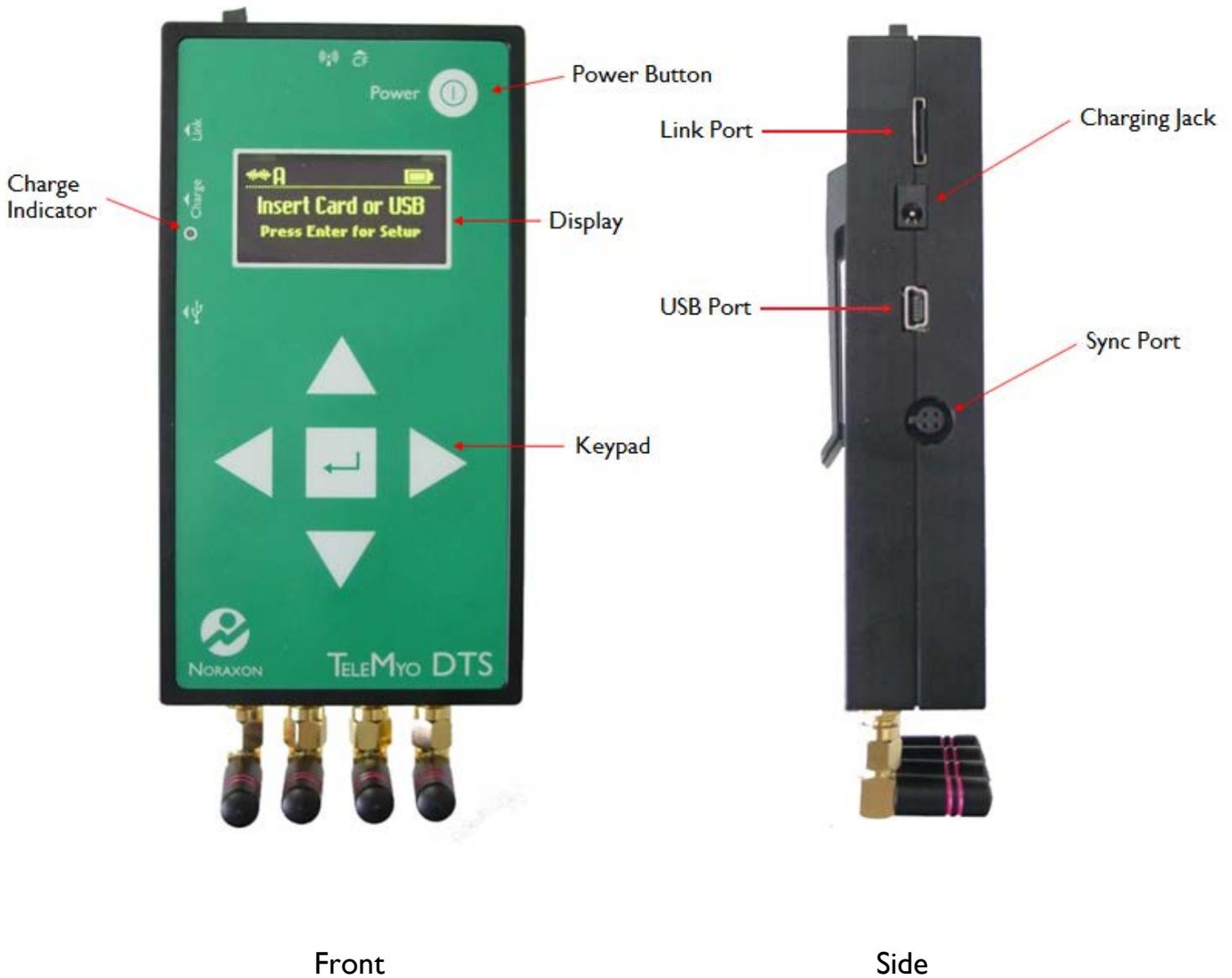
Dimensions

- EMG Probes Dimensions: 1.34" L x 0.95" W x 0.55" H (3.4 cm x 2.4 cm x 1.4 cm)
- EMG Probes: Weight: Less than 14 g.
- DTS Belt Receiver Dimensions: 12.6 cm L x 6.75 cm W x 2.38 cm H
- DTS Belt Receiver Weight: Less than 185 g.

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2.2 Equipment Photos

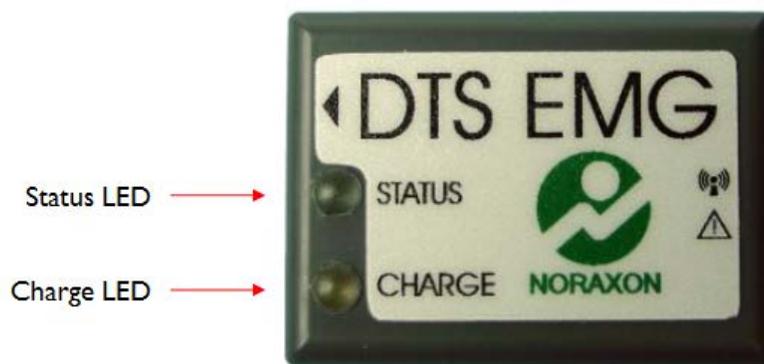
2.2.1 Belt Receiver



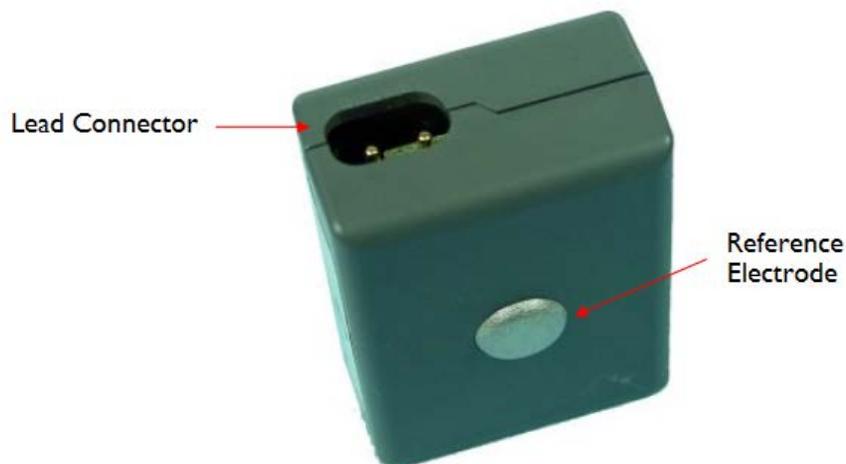
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2.2.2 EMG Transmitter

Front



Top/Back



3. Procedure

Whether the device will be used with the Noraxon data collection package or with the Vicon system, the basic principles regarding the use of the device are the same. Outlined in this section are instruction on operating the EMG probes, electrode recommendations and an overview of principles regarding EMG.

3.1 Training

All users must read and sign this POD to receive the proper training in applications and instrumentation. Users should never modify the equipment.

3.2 Operation

The EMG sensors require minimal attention on the part of the user. Because there are multiple DTS EMG Transmitters, each transmitter has a unique 4 character serial number consisting of a mix of digits 0-9 and letters A through F, which provides a simplified means of identifying one sensor from another. This serial number appears on each DTS EMG Transmitter (adjacent to its charging contacts).

The sensor's green STATUS indicator provides a means of communicating its operational state. In the idle state the STATUS indicator will flash at a low, once per second rate. When the sensor is actively measuring an EMG signal the STATUS indicator will flash recognizably faster. If the STATUS indicator is not flashing at all, the EMG Transmitter must be placed in the Charging Dock to be recharged. This could be due to a depleted sensor battery or if the sensor has been deliberately placed in a special shut down mode.

For proper operation, the EMG Transmitter must be applied to the measurement site so that the reference electrode pad on the bottom side is in direct contact with bare skin. The skin area in contact with the reference pad generally does not require any special preparation prior to applying the sensor. (Some skin preparation for the reference

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pad site may be beneficial if the EMG signal exhibits a wandering baseline). The EMG Transmitter can be secured in place using Noraxon supplied double sided adhesive tape and/or elastic straps. Straps are recommended if very dynamic movements are expected.

The EMG Transmitter allows for interchangeable terminal lead wires for attachment to disposable electrodes. The two lead wires are offset with one longer than the other by an amount equal to the standard 2 cm spacing for surface EMG electrodes. The 2-pin lead wire connector can be inserted either way into the EMG Transmitter to facilitate attachment to the surface electrodes. There are 2 lead lengths currently available: 10 cm and 15 cm leads.

3.3 Skin Preparation

In order to ensure proper signal transmission, the surface of the skin under the electrode and under the transmitter must be cleaned and cleared of anything. This will ensure proper contact and signal transmission.

3.3.1 Removal of hair

If the participant has hair where the electrodes will be placed, this must be shaved without the use of shaving cream, which leaves a film and impedes electrode adhesion and electrical conduction.

3.3.2 Cleaning of skin

The skin under the electrode must also be cleaned. This can be done using a special abrasive conductive cleaning paste, but the use of an alcohol and a gauze pad is sufficient. The skin must be cleaned and abraded enough to remove a layer of skin.

Surface Electrode Placement

Once the site has been properly prepared, the electrode and transmitter can be placed. Here are a few guidelines for electrode placements:

4. Wet-gel electrodes have the best skin impedance values
5. Use small electrodes to increase the selectivity of your measures (avoid cross-talk)

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6. The recommendation for the inter-electrode distance is 2 cm
7. Apply electrodes in parallel to the muscle fiber direction
8. Use the dominant middle portion of the muscle belly for best selectivity
9. Take care that the electrode site remains on the active muscle mass during muscle shortening (i.e. biceps brachii)
10. Use a map system with measured distances between the electrode site and dominant anatomical landmarks (Fig. XX)
11. Ensure participant does not sit on or apply too much pressure to the electrode or transmitter

Knowledge of muscle origin and insertion is also important. For the standardized electrode placement of the most common muscles recorded using sEMG, visit the SENIAM Project (<http://www.seniam.org/>). Click the header 'Recommendations' -> 'Sensor Locations' and follow the links for each of the regions of the body and the muscle that comprise them.

3.4 Securing the Cables

Finally, securing the electrodes and pre-amplifiers on the skin is sometimes necessary. This point may be not as important for static or slow motion tests, but in dynamic studies it helps to avoid cable movement artifacts and minimizes the risk of separating the electrodes from the skin. Use regular tape, elastic straps or net bandages to secure each electrode lead, however, avoid too much tension. It is recommended not to directly tape over the electrodes to keep a constant application pressure for all electrodes.

3.5 EMG signal validity

This checkpoint addresses the basic questions: "Did I measure the right muscle" and "can I see valid signals at all?" There is a possibility of accidentally applying the wrong cable end to the muscle, e.g. the wire designated for one muscle is mixed with another.

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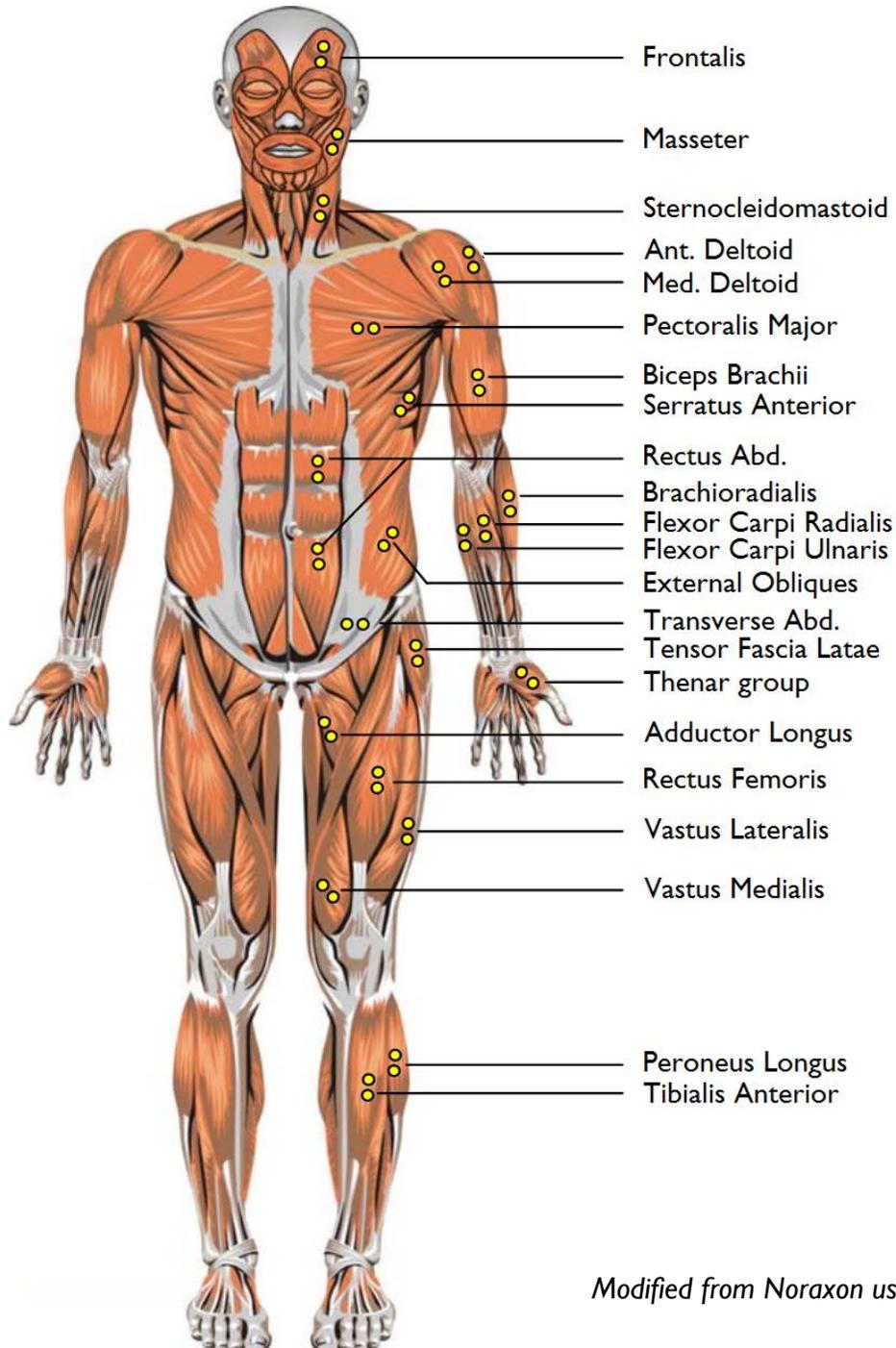
Checking all connections again can confirm the EMG signal by a specific muscle function test for that particular muscle. Detection sites over very thick subcutaneous fat tissue (e.g. more than 4 cm) may mean that no EMG signal is visible at all or the EMG to baseline ratio is poor. Explicit / isolated contractions muscle testing give you a clear understanding of whether or not the EMG recording will reveal valid data and/or if the subject is able to activate the muscle.

The following figures illustrate the muscle maps of muscles that are typical sites in studies. The two yellow dots on the surface of the muscles indicate the orientation of the electrode pair in relation to the muscle fiber direction.

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4. EMG Placements

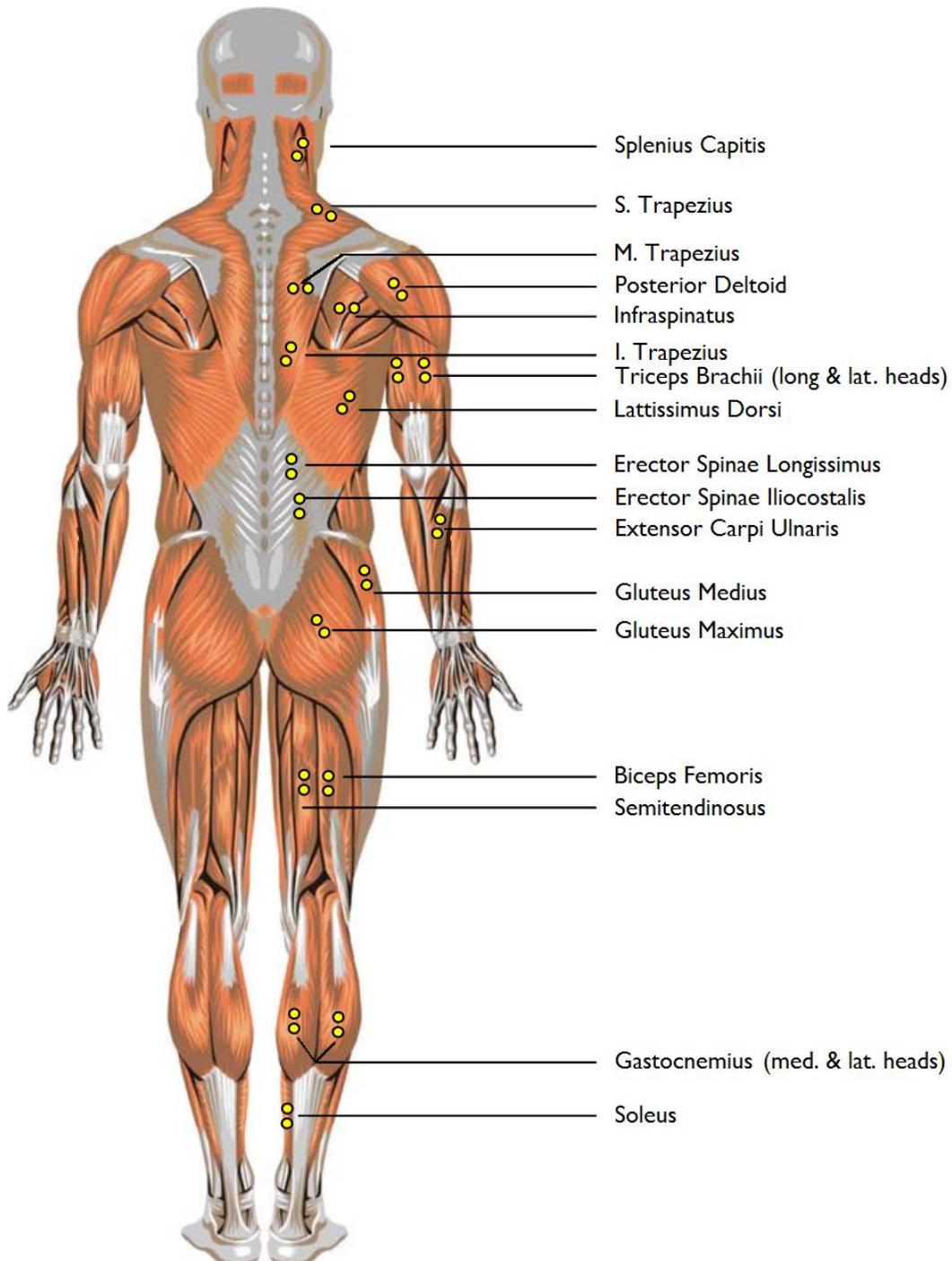
4.1 Frontal Muscle Map:



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4.2 Dorsal Muscle Map:



5. Data Acquisition

5.1 Vicon Nexus

Once the acquisition computer is turned on, double-click the **Vicon Nexus** icon. Ensure the **Vicon Giganet** pre-amp is turned on, that the proper system configuration is chosen and that the database being written to is correct (for more information of the Vicon Nexus motion capture system, please refer to the Vicon POD).

Plug in the **TeleMyo DTS** receiver to the Vicon computer via USB. Ensure there are no internet browsers open at the same time as; *there is an issue with the acquisition computer being connecting to the internet while trying to collect data. It appears to interfere with the TeleMyo receiver and it desynchronizes the EMG probes.* Turn on the TeleMyo DTS receiver. It is properly interfacing with the computer when you hear a chime. In **Nexus**, click on the **System tab** on the left-hand side of the window and select **#1 (Noraxon TeleMyo)** in **Devices**. Click **#1 (Noraxon TeleMyo)** and in the **Properties** pane underneath, change the number of EMG channels from 16 to 8, wait for the device to synchronize, and then revert back to 16 channels. *This is a Vicon/Noraxon patch issue that does not allow the EMG system synchronize without doing this.* Now, with the 16 channels selected right-click the voltage tab and add in each individual channel, one by one making sure it synchronizes. A status window will briefly appear each time a channel is successfully added). Once all the channels are added, right-click on **Local Vicon System** and then click **Resynchronize**. Highlight the EMG channels and select **Graph** in the central viewing window in Nexus. The EMG traces will show up if the device has been properly synchronized. Follow the subject preparation steps outlined in section 3.

*Do not forget to perform muscle tests for each of the muscles. When you record using Nexus, all EMG data will be recorded as well. Periodically check that all the EMG probes are still collecting data from the participant. This can be achieved by splitting the viewing vertically and selecting the **Graph** view in Nexus.*

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Once all data has been collected, it can be exported from Nexus to an ASCII file (*.csv or *.txt). Please refer to the Vicon Nexus POD for further information on data management and export.

N.B. If the participant is performing very dynamic movements or is sitting down between trials, ensure that the probes remain in contact with the participant.

5.2 XP Master Edition

5.2.1 Main screen elements

Project is the highest level in the hierarchy of the MyoResearch XP database. This level can be used to separate different projects or users working in the same version. For several projects available in one version, you can click the pull-down button to open a list of all existing projects and change to another Project Directory.

If you are creating a new project, in the Project section in the top left corner, click New. A dialogue box will open, where you can enter the name of the project. Once you have written the name of your project in the text box, click OK.

Organize contains all operations needed to manage a Project Directory (Edit, Copy, Delete). Subjects are the second level in the MyoResearch XP Database System. Typically, all records (third level) of one person are stored and listed here. To add a new subject, click New in the Subject section. A dialogue box will open where you can input all of the subject's information. Once all the necessary information for your study has been filled out, click OK.

When you want to begin recording EMG, click on Measure on the bottom left corner of the window, which will bring you to the Measurement Setup.

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5.2.2 Measurement Setup screen elements

There are a few different panes in Measurement Setup, which are important for users, namely Muscle/Device Maps, Channels and Application/Configuration.

The left pane is the Muscle/Device Maps, where you can review the recommended EMG placement sites for muscles, select different peripheral devices, etc.

In the center is the Channels pane. Here, the user can select which channel they desire to record, which side of the body they are recording (which changes depending on muscle selection), the name of the channel (which also changes depending on selection), the type of recording (default is EMG) the amplitude (default is 500), the units (default is μV) and whether or not this channel will be recorded (default is set to record). These options are all setup by default to record EMG, but if users have different interfacing peripherals, this is where the information would be changed.

On the right pane there are the Application, Configuration and Measurement Options icons. The Application window displays the icons representing the Application Group you are currently using. Measurement Configurations are sorted by their applications, e.g. gait configurations are located in "Gait", clinical feedback protocols in "Feedback Training" etc. This grouping helps you sort and manage the numerous Measurement Configurations. MyoResearch XP is equipped with a set of predefined Application Groups that cover a wide range of EMG applications. You may want to use, modify or create your own Application Groups and Measurement Configurations.

The Measurement Options window contains various options which can be customized for your collection, like acoustic beeper, real time processing, biofeedback displays and synchronized video. For in depth information on all these options, refer to pages 38-45 in the MyoResearch XP Master Edition User Manual located on the desktop).

Once you have selected the desired channels muscles and have configured the data collection trial to suit your needs, simply click on the Start button at the bottom left of

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the window. This will bring you to the Measurement Monitor where a live trace of the EMG channel will be displayed. Before recording, ensure that the baseline of the trace has been zeroed by clicking on Zero Offset. You can also add manual event lines or time stamps by clicking Mark during the recording trials. Once you have finished your recording, simply click Stop.

After you have finished all the data acquisition for a selected muscle, click Database to return to the Subject Database menu. From here, you can highlight your newly acquired data and begin processing it.

5.2.3 Data Processing

From the Subject Database window, highlight any of the trials you wish to process and then click View/Analyse. A trace of the EMG will appear in the Signal window, as well as any events that were entered using the Mark function during acquisition. In the center pane is the Bar graph, where discrete samples of the EMG can be displayed in the bar graph. Both these displays can be used to manually inspect elements of the EMG signal.

On the right hand side in the Record Option, you can begin processing the EMG. Clicking the Marker Menu brings up various options for manually adding markers, automatically adding markers by threshold, Max/Min, etc. The main purpose of setting markers is to define analysis periods of your trace. For specific details on marker options, refer to pages 82 – 85 of the MyoResearch XP Master Edition manual.

Next is the Edit Menu. *N.B. Any changes made to the EMG signal are permanent; it is therefore recommended that a backup be made before editing the signal.* Alternatively, save any changes done in Edit mode with the option Save as..., which allows you to create a new record file (including all your edit changes) but keeping the source record in its original status. The edit operations are organized in two Tools sections: Channel and File Tools. All Channel Tools can be applied by channel, whereas File Tools always affect all channels. For a complete list of tool functionality, refer to pages 86 – 91.

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The next button in the Record Option is the Signal Processing tool. This is the bread and butter of any researcher, because this is where the raw signal begins to take shape, depending on which analysis protocol you decide to use. Typically, stored EMG data is processed by several signal processing methods such as rectification, smoothing and normalization before an analysis is started (exception: frequency based analysis types). Any signal processing can be restored to original raw data status.

Five Signal Processing methods, listed under Available Operations, can be loaded in a sequence of Selected Operations. You can create any sequence and order of processing methods and even load them several times, if needed. *N.B. The order in which you Insert the Available Operations is the order in which the signal is processed.*

5.2.4 Available Operations

Rectification: This very popular processing method takes the absolute value of all amplitude values, making all negative values positive. The reason for this operation is to achieve positive amplitude curves that allow the user to calculate parameters like mean amplitude, area under the curve, etc.

Smoothing: Typically, for amplitude based calculations and analysis, the raw EMG is smoothed by digital filters, root mean square or moving average algorithms. The result is, non-reproducible EMG spikes are eliminated and the mean trend of the EMG enervation is used. As described previously, another benefit is the easier reading of EMG patterns, which is useful for clinical tests, biofeedback oriented treatments or trainings.

The following smoothing **Algorithms** are supported:

12. **RMS:** Root Mean Square

13. **Mean:** the moving average

14. **Mean absolute:** the moving average with combined rectification

Window: allows the user to define the millisecond-based window for each algorithm.

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Amplitude Normalization: 5 normalization routines are available in the pull down list of the control Normalize to:

- **Manual Value:** Here the normalization value can be entered manually. You can apply manual values per channel.
- **Peak value:** This is the main method of finding MVC (Maximum Voluntary Contraction) values within MVC records. The entry **Window** defines a window for the MVC value calculation. The mean value of this window is taken as the MVC value. An automatic algorithm calculates each selected channel separately, where the highest mean window is located in the channel and indicates the signal portion with a green color. When done, a prompt appears that asks you to **Update the MVC stack**. The MVC stack is an internal memory that keeps these MVC values, as long as it is filled by the next Peak value normalization operation. When confirmed by clicking **Yes**, these MVC values are available for the next normalization routine: **MVC Stack**. The functions Restrict calculation to... and Pick can be used to mouse mark a signal portion in the record, with the result being, MVC calculations are only performed in this marked area. This function may be helpful in measurement designs, where a MVC recording period is part of a given record, e.g. at its very beginning.
- **To Mean Value:** In this normalization method, the amplitude mean value is calculated for each channel and taken as a reference value for the normalization. This type of normalization is often used in gait analysis where time normalized EMG patterns are amplitude normalized again, each to its own mean value.
- **MVC-Stack:** This method loads the current MVC values from the stack. This can be repeated as many times as needed, e.g. normalized records and trials done after the MVC record of a subject. The MVC values remain in the stack, even if the computer is shut down. In summary, Normalize to Peak value creates MVC values, Normalize to MVC Stack loads MVC values for the normalization of other records (of the same subject).
- **Values from other records:** This method accesses normalization values found or applied from this "other" record. Only records of the same subject are listed (Normalization to another subject's muscle activation would not make sense). Please verify that the proper normalization routine was performed on this "other" record

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(see processing history in the Database Record Info Section). Typically, this is the MVC trial of one subject, which is used to calculate/find the MVC values within the maximum contraction series. If you choose a record that was not normalized by any method, this operation cannot be performed.

The amplitude normalization can be applied to certain channel types (typically EMG) or physical channel numbers.

Delete and Delete all: You can remove a signal processing method from the iconized list of **Selected Methods** or delete the complete list.

The other Available Operations, such as Filtering, ECG Reduction, etc, are further detailed in the **MyoResearch XP Master Edition** manual and are very dependent on each study. As such, this POD will not explore all the available options, but the description of these functions are well explained on pages 94 – 97 of the manual.

Modified from Noraxon user manual

APPENDIX I

POD Training Record Form

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TeleMyo Direct Transmission System (DTS) for Surface Electromyography (EMG)

Ownership	Document type	Area	SOP Number	Version
PC	POD	FA	001	v01

Training Record

Full Name	
Institution/PI	
Contact (email or phone number)	

Signature

Sign here (Trainee)

Date

Sign Here (Functional Assessment Coordinator)

Date