



# IS YOUR 12-LEAD DIRTY?

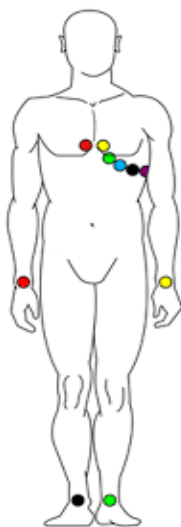
## Dirty EKGs = Interpretation Errors!

### GET A CLEAN BASELINE

- Ask patient to remain still (supine or semi-Fowlers)
- Don't touch the patient during acquisition
- Keep leads straight and not touching BP cuff/O2 tubing
- To reduce shivering/Parkinsonian movement give pt. a blanket
- Wait for artifact on screen to clear before capturing 12-lead
- **If the ST segment isn't easy to identify and interpret, the machine can't interpret it either**
- Re-acquire 12-lead if there is significant artifact or readout indicates "poor data quality"

Any vertical motion of the isoelectric line can lead to false-positive EKGs!

### PROPER LEAD PLACEMENT/SKIN PREP



- Limb leads go on the limbs not the chest/abdomen
- Avoid bony prominences and excessive fatty areas
- Shave excessive hair if present
- Always wipe skin with alcohol **AND DRY** before placing leads

### THREE MOST COMMON REASONS FOR FALSE-POSITIVE EKGs IN THE REGION

- **POOR DATA QUALITY**
- Bundle Branch Blocks
- Tachycardic rhythms

**46%** of EMS 12-Leads in the S-SV EMS Region incorrectly identify STEMI/ Acute MI

