

## Thoracic Outlet Syndrome

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### **Abstract:**

Thoracic outlet syndrome (TOS) is a poorly understood nerve compression problem. There are three general types, namely arterial (~4%), venous (~4%) and neurogenic (>90%). Of the neurogenic group, over 95% are disputed, now called electrically negative neurogenic TOS. True neuropathic TOS has incidence of one case/million population. Treatment of TOS has been exceedingly problematic in regard to injured workers.

This presentation will discuss what tests, clinical and diagnostic, appear to be accurate in differentiating between true and disputed cases. True neurogenic has physical evidence of nerve compression including sensory and motor loss. It is almost always unilateral whereas those with disputed cases have a myriad of complaints, often bilaterally, but few physical findings.

The surgical approaches that are best to correct the neuropathy as well as those with associated vascular compression problems will be discussed. Quantification of the impairment associated with this unusual neuropathy with illustrative cases will be reviewed and determination of the individual's ability to return to work.