

DO NOT FORGET THE DISTAL BASELINE IMPEDANCE MEASUREMENT
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One of the measures that we have found very useful in our laboratory is the average impedance at the two distal sites (10 & 5 cm above the LES) taken just prior to giving the first test swallow during the manometry exam. This applies to either standard impedance-manometry or the high resolution technique. This DBI value, analogous to the Distal Esophageal Amplitude (DEA), is the average of the impedance values obtained from the two sites. Normally it will exceed 1,000 ohms. Values below this level are frequently indicative of conditions in which there is likely to be fluid retention in the distal esophagus; thus the low impedance, or DBI, value. The clinical conditions that this finding may predict are severe IEM, scleroderma, or achalasia. As one would expect, the lowest values are obtained in the achalasia patients, where a DBI may be less than 500 ohms. In our laboratory we regularly take this measurement at the beginning of the reading of a manometry study to provide an important clue to the final interpretation of the study.

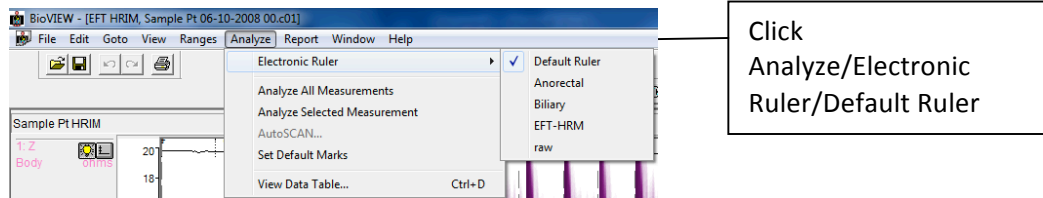
Reference: Blonski W, Hila A, Vela M, Castell D: An analysis of Distal Esophageal Impedance in Individuals With and Without Esophageal Motility Abnormalities J Clin Gastroenterol 2008; 42: 776-781

HOW TO MEASURE DBI (Distal Impedance Baseline):

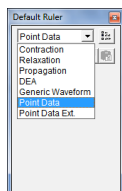
Measuring the DBI using the electronic ruler:

The Electronic Ruler can function differently depending on the type of measurement desired. The Default Ruler is used to calculate the DBI calculation.

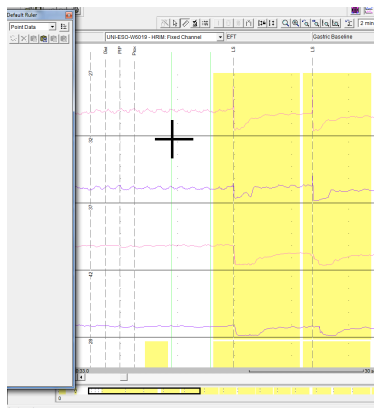
- Activate the Default Ruler:



- Select 'Point Data' from the drop menu



- Move the cursor onto the waveform. The cursor will change to a 'plus' (+) sign. Click on a quiet area before the first swallow in the impedance channels to start the dbi value.



- Click a second line on the tracing a short distance from the first data point making sure the impedance wave remains steady. The impedance value will appear in the Default Ruler Tool.

