

**Artificial intelligence massage therapy? Meet the robot being studied by Mayo**
**Clinic**

<b>Video</b>	<b>Audio</b>
	This is EMMA. EMMA stands for expert manipulative massage automation. It's a robot designed to give a therapeutic form of massage called Tuina (twee-nah).
<b>Brent Bauer, M.D. Integrated Medicine Mayo Clinic</b>	"Some people call it Chinese massage, but it's actually a very comprehensive approach that is mostly used for muscle and muscle alignment type issues."
	Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, is currently studying the use of Tuina for patients with chronic nonspecific lower back pain.
	"If the study turns positive, and we say, 'Yes, Tuina can be a very good treatment for many people with chronic low back pain.' Half the population, we don't have enough Tuina experts to even meet half the needs."
	That's where EMMA or robotic massage could help by supplementing some of the work.
	"We want the therapist to do much of the assessment and the positioning, but then the robot can take over some of the repetitive work."
	EMMA's artificial intelligence system uses sensors to measure muscle stiffness and calculate the acupoints in each person's body. Mayo Clinic is hoping to lead the way by conducting clinical evaluations of EMMA.
	"So many of our patients do not get full relief or full care if we just limit it to what we have in our conventional toolbox. So this is where I love the ability to reach and say, 'Well, we also have acupuncture. We have evidence-based massage. We have, perhaps, Tuina in the near future.'"
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.