

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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In the Matter of DELIA G. ANDRADE and DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,  
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER, Port Hueneme, CA

*Docket No. 03-1361; Submitted on the Record;  
Issued October 6, 2003*

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DECISION and ORDER

Before ALEC J. KOROMILAS, DAVID S. GERSON,  
WILLIE T.C. THOMAS

The issue is whether the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs properly denied compensation after March 8, 2001.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issue involved, the contentions of the parties on appeal and the entire case record. The Board finds that the January 16, 2003 decision of the hearing representative of the Office is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the hearing representative.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The medical report appellant submitted from her treating physician, Dr. Thomas J. Horn, a Board-certified orthopedic surgeon, dated September 13, 2002, stated that she developed left-sided overuse syndrome, which manifested itself as de Quervain's tenosynovitis, because of her ongoing work-related right-sided problems. Dr. Horn, however, did not explain how factors at work caused the left-sided problems and, therefore, his opinion is incomplete and not well rationalized. The Board has held that a medical opinion not fortified by medical rationale is of little probative value. *Caroline Thomas*, 51 ECAB 452, 456 n.10 (2000).

The January 16, 2003 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, DC  
October 6, 2003

Alec J. Koromilas  
Chairman

David S. Gerson  
Alternate Member

Willie T.C. Thomas  
Alternate Member