

# Douleurs Périnéales Neurogènes

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Pr. G. Amarenco

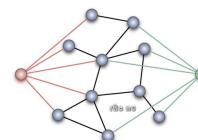
Service de Neuro-Urologie et d' Explorations Périnéales  
Hôpital Tenon AP HP.

Groupe de Recherche Clinique Neuro-Urologie GREEN UPMC Paris VI

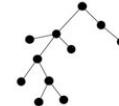
DIU Neuro-Urologie 2013-2014

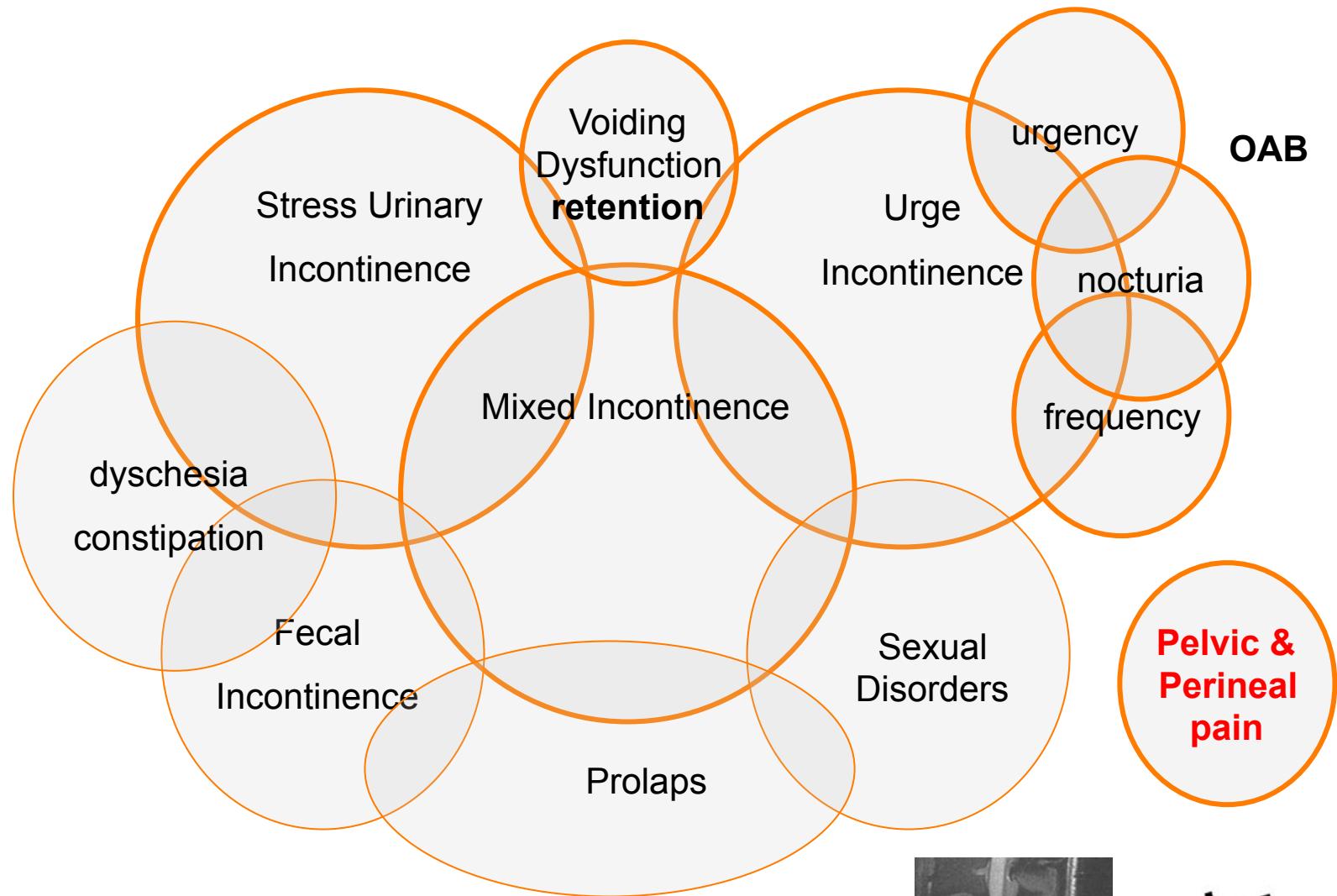


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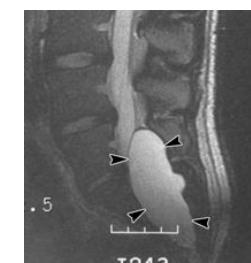


**UPMC**  
PARIS UNIVERSITAS

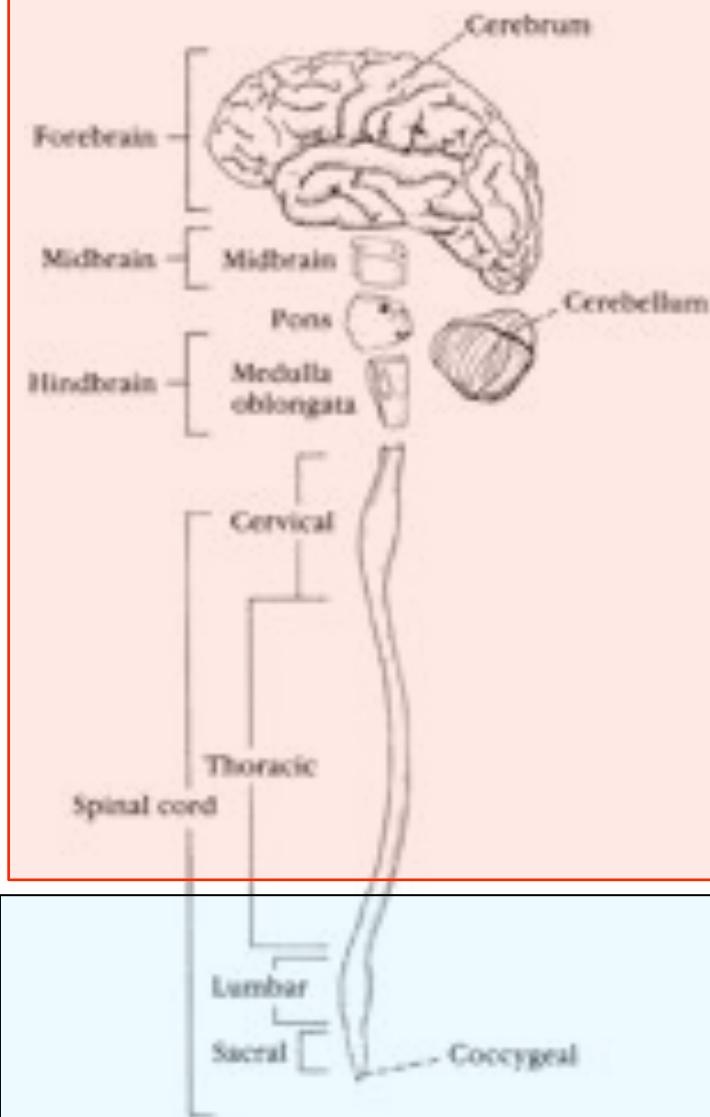




- Perineal Pain very frequent
- urinary, rectal, sexual symptoms : **often intricated +++**
- Remark: **psychogenic component**
- due to : mechanical (urogynecological) or neurological alterations

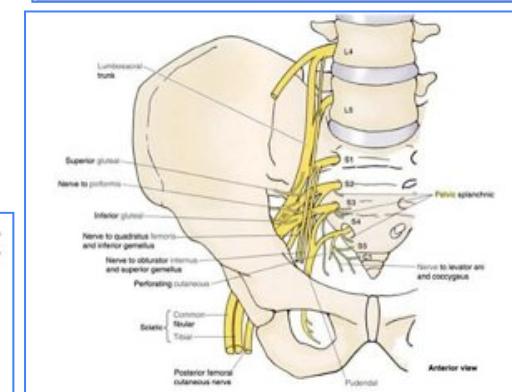
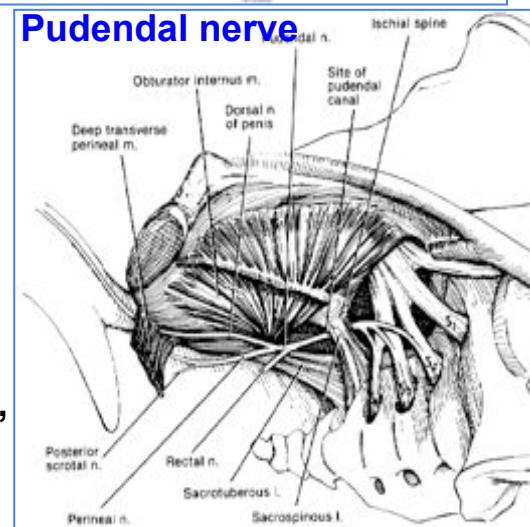
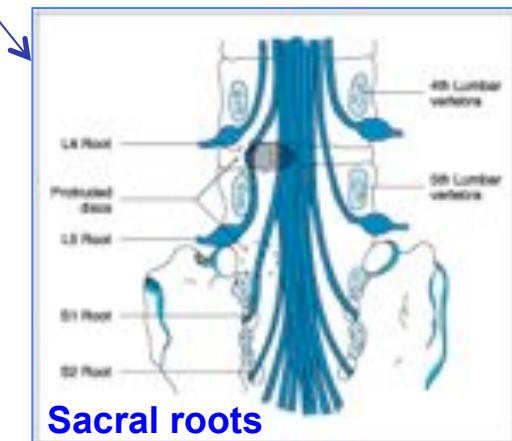
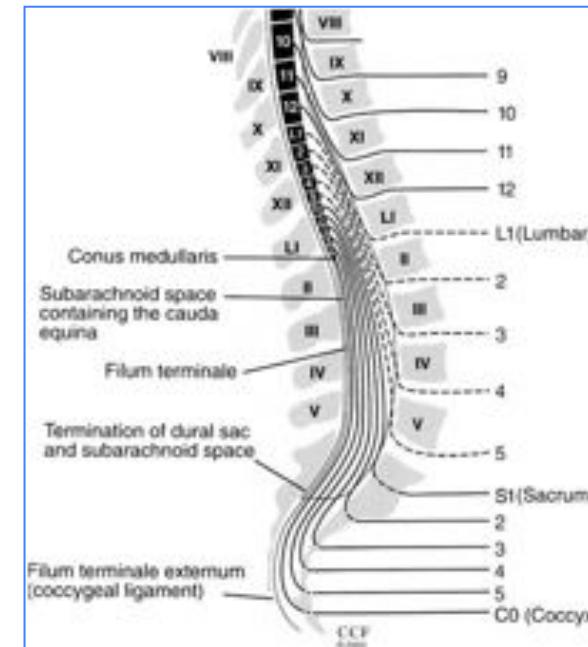


necessary to take in account both  
etiologies and Quality of life



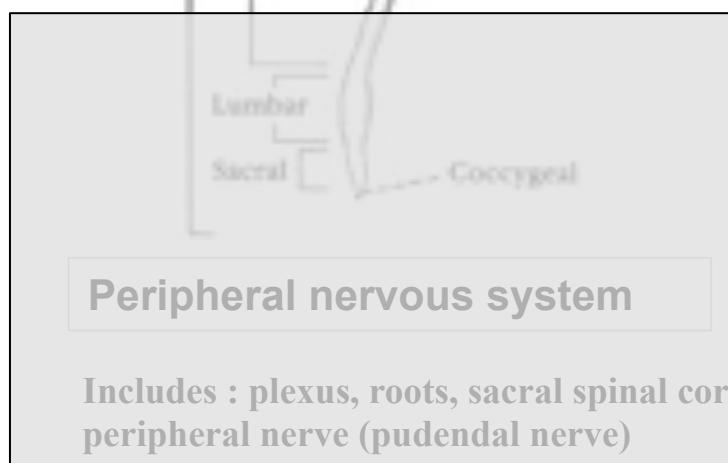
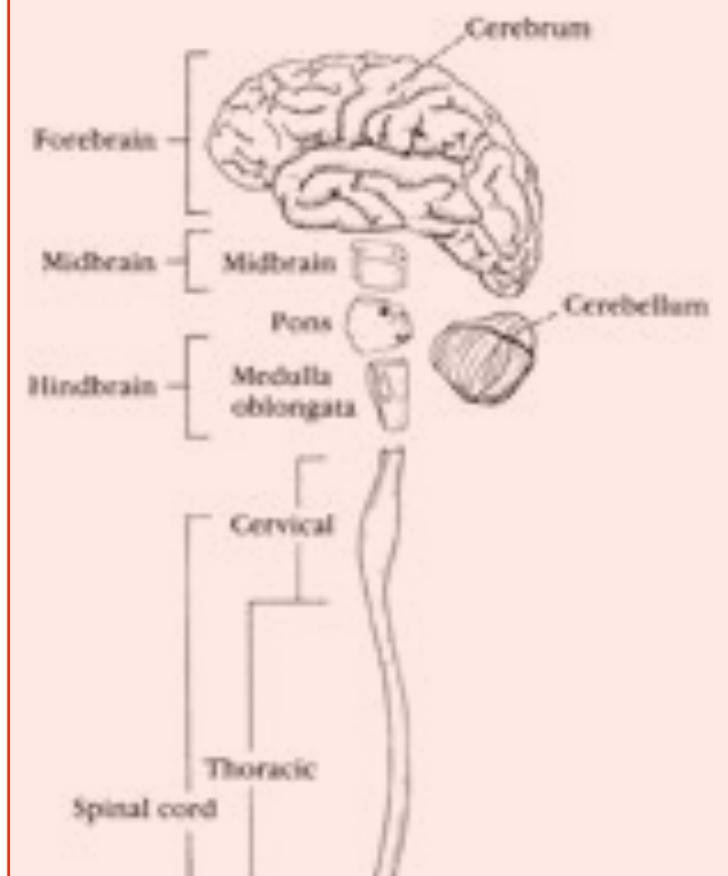
## Central nervous system

Nervous system split in **central**/peripheral levels



## Peripheral nervous system

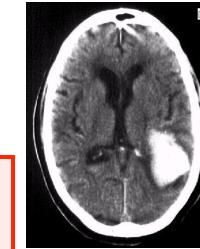
Includes : plexus, roots, sacral spinal cord, peripheral nerve (pudendal nerve)



## Central nervous system

### Brain lesions :

- stroke
- Parkinson
- tumors
- infectious (abscess, encephalitis,...)
- trauma



### Spinal cord lesions :

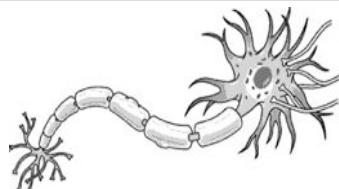
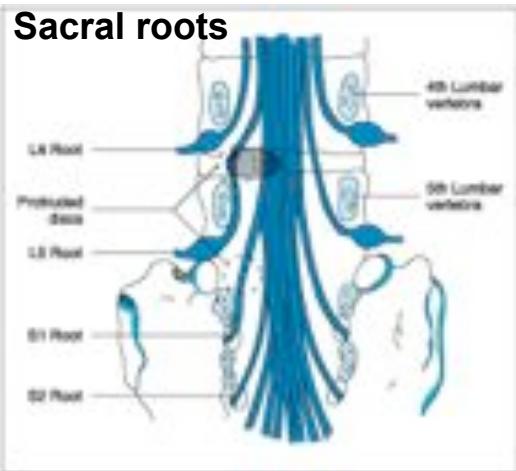
- vascular
- trauma (SCI)
- tumors
- infectious (abscess, myelitis,...)
- MS
- arthrosis



### Etiologies of perineal pain in central nervous system lesions

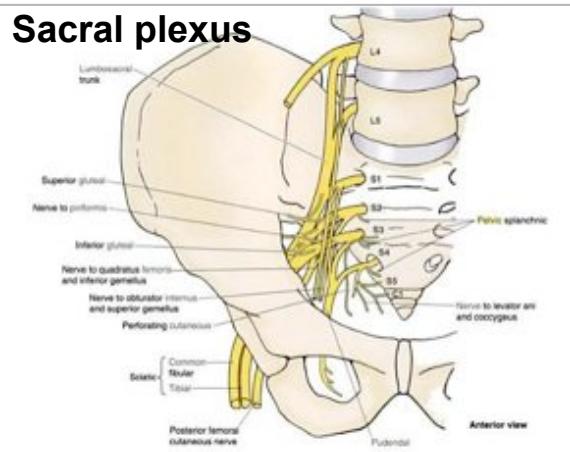
## Etiologies of neurogenic perineal pain in peripheral nervous system lesions

### Sacral roots



### Peripheral neuropathies

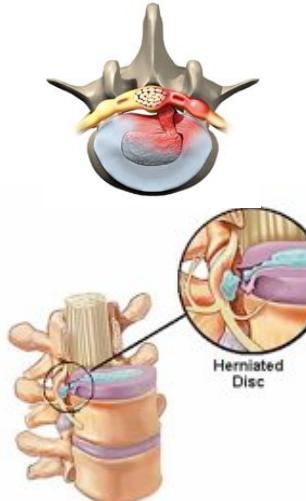
### Sacral plexus



## Disk herniation



sacral myelitis (herpes zoster, Lyme ...)



## Spinal tumors



sacral plexus injury (traumatic, radiotherapy, tumors)

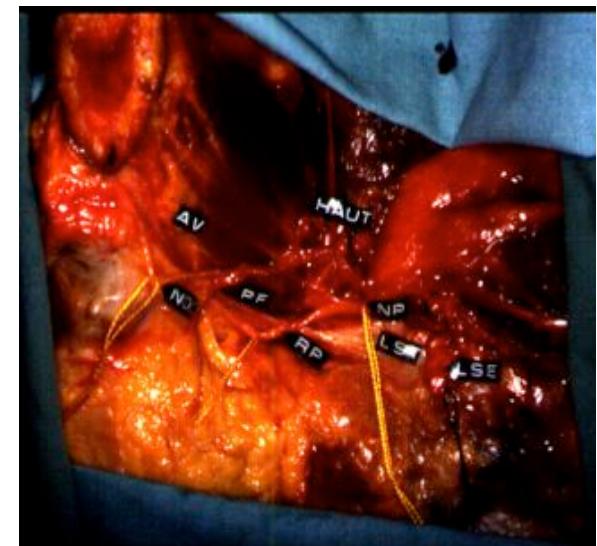
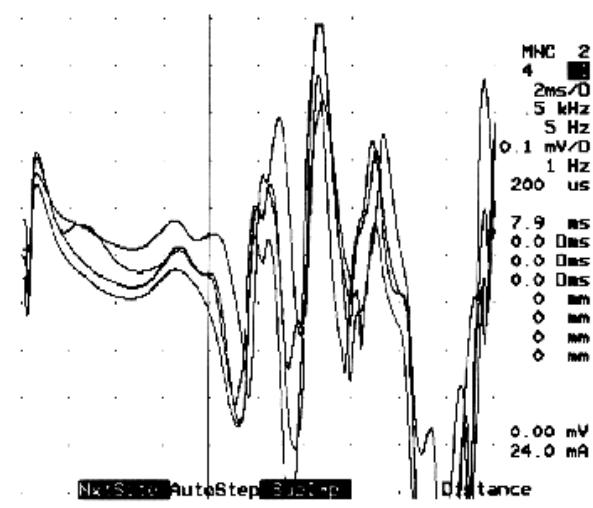
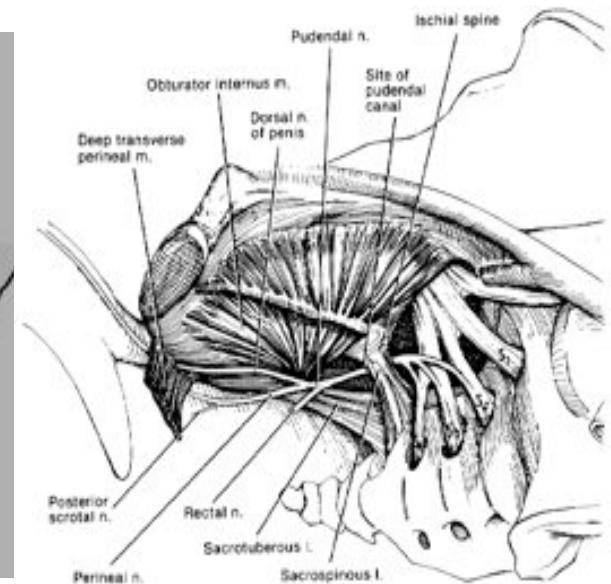
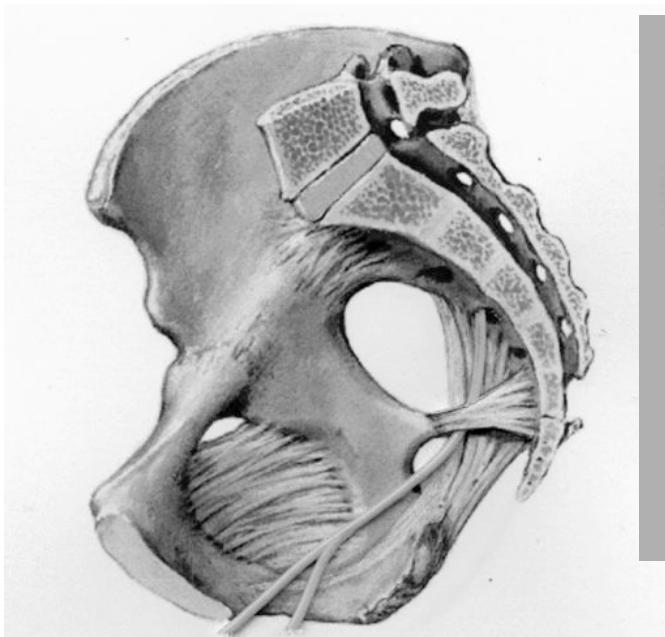


Sacrum fracture



Sacral tumors

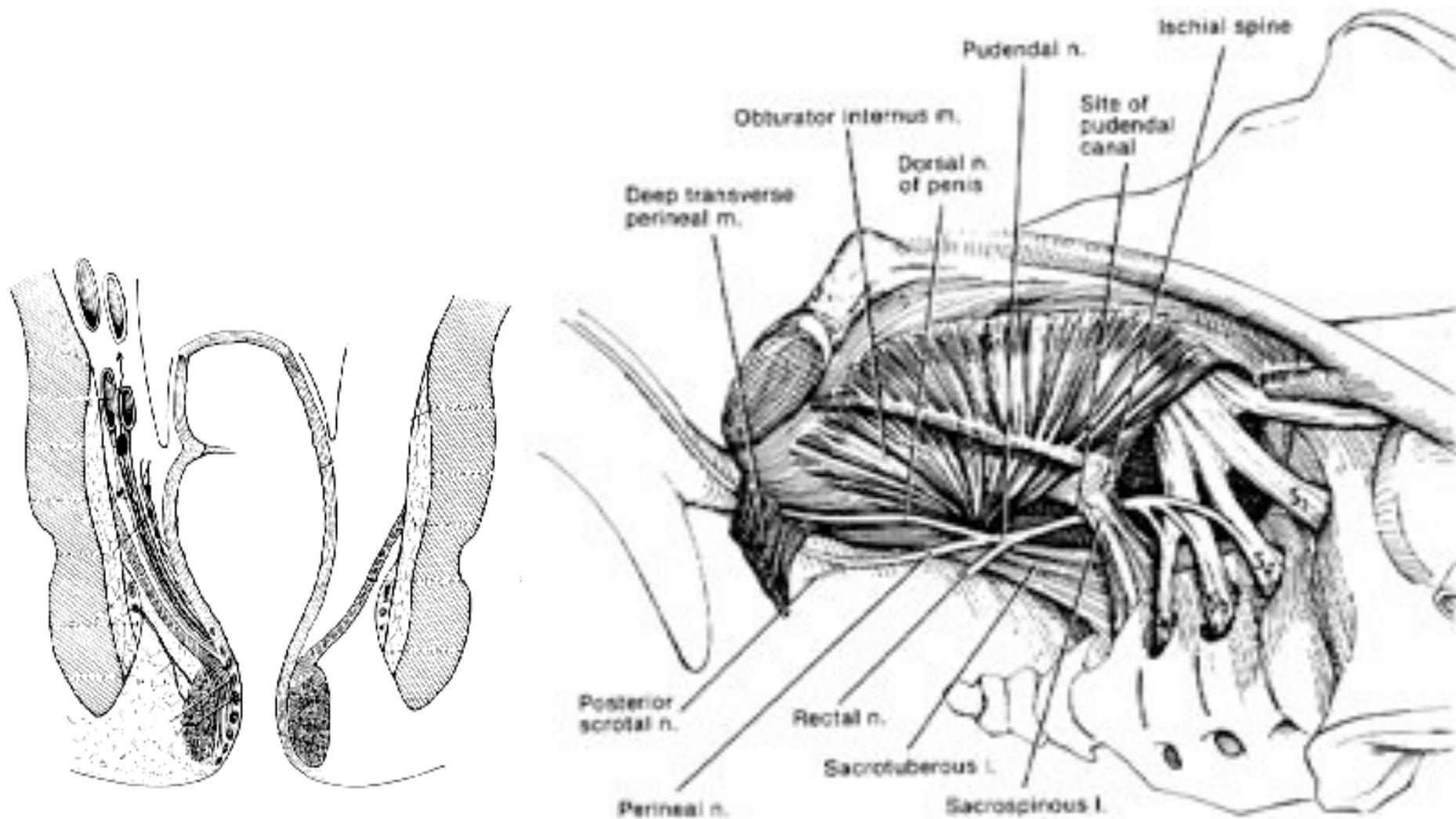
# Pudendal Neuralgia



# Sites of compression ...

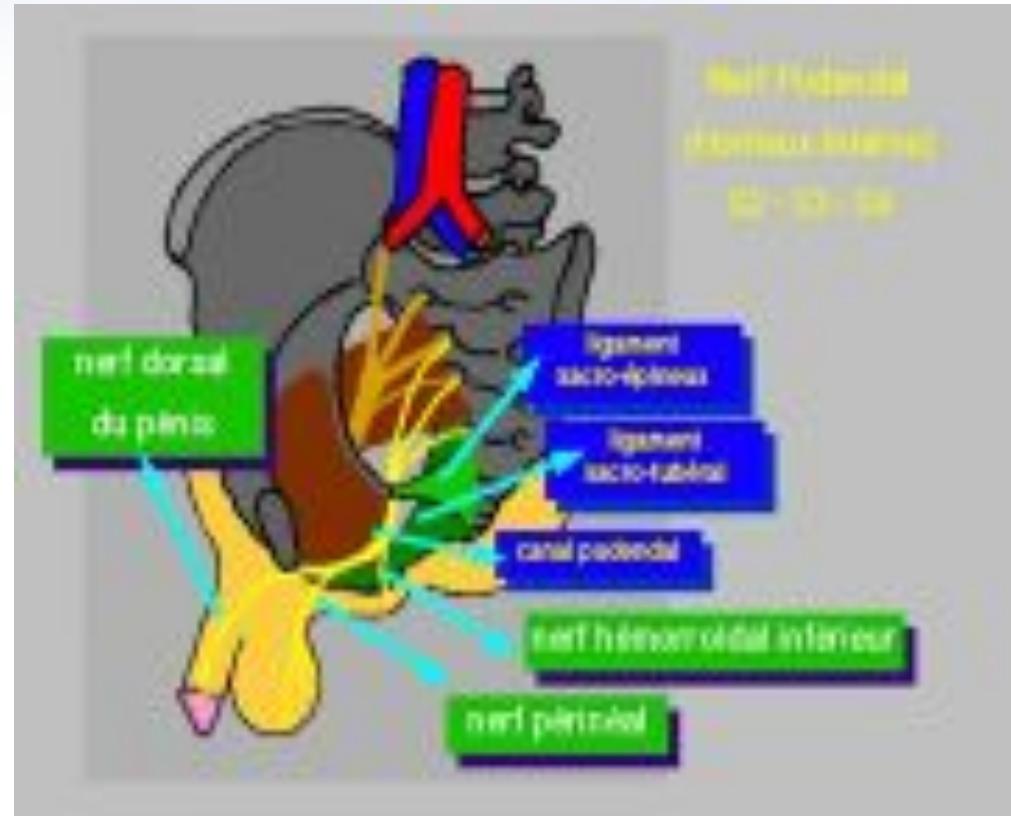
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- Ischial spine
- Alcock pudendal canal



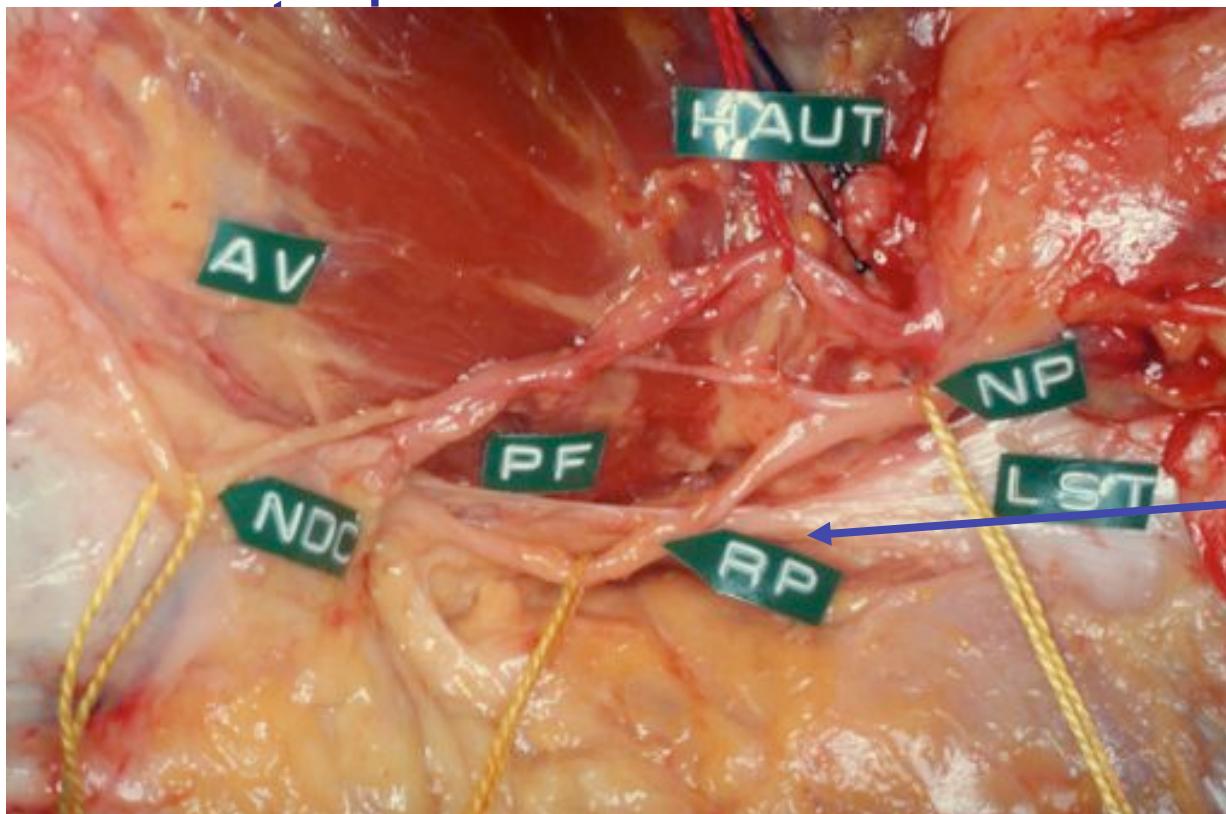
# *nerf pudendal: sites de conflits*

- Le canal sous piriforme: conflit possible également avec le tronc sciatique
- L'épine sciatique: conflit dans la pince ligamentaire entre ligaments sacro-épineux et sacro tubéral
- Le canal pudendal d' Alcock: fibrose de l'aponévrose de l'obturateur interne, conflit avec le processus falciforme du ligament sacro-tubéral
- Nerf dorsal de la verge ou du clitoris: canal sous pubien



- Un facteur aggravant: l'hyperpression périnéale
- Physiopathologie de la douleur: perte de mobilité du nerf

## *La névralgie pudendale*



Toute perte de mobilité du nerf pudendal favorisera l' écrasement du nerf sur le prolongement falciforme du ligt sacro-épineux lors de la station assise

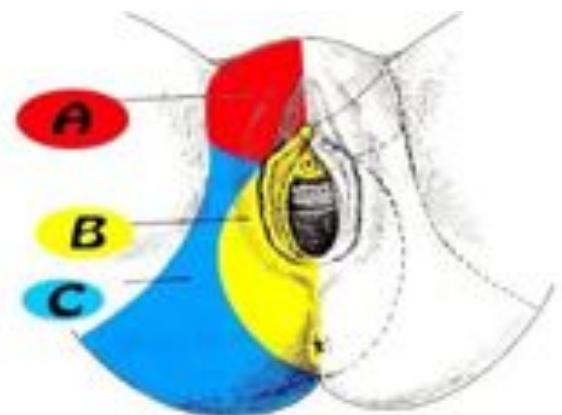
## *Névralgie pudendale*

- Historique:
  - 1987 G Amarenco : douleurs périnéales du cycliste: hypothèse d'une compression du nerf pudendal dans le canal d'Alcock
  - 1989 dissections anatomiques: le nerf pudendal est un nerf exposé à la compression et à la perte de mobilité, corrélations cliniques
  - 1989 possibilités de libérer chirurgicalement le nerf confirmant un syndrome canalaire
  - 1991 possibilité d'infiltrations
  - 2005 protocole chirurgical randomisé: preuve du bénéfice de la libération chirurgicale du nerf
  - 2008 critères consensuels de syndrome canalaire du nerf pudendal
  - 2012: protocole de recherche clinique national, visant à évaluer la vraie valeur des infiltrations

## Clinical signs are the major criteria

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- Pain in pudendal nerve aera
- Pain increases in sitting position
- Without awakening
- Without objective loss of sensibility
- Positive block test



Nantes criteria ...

## Questionnaire DN4

Répondez aux 4 questions ci-dessous en cochant une seule case pour chaque item.

### INTERROGATOIRE DU PATIENT

Question 1: La douleur présente-t-elle une ou plusieurs des caractéristiques suivantes?

- 1 - Brûlure
- 2 - Sensation de froid douloureux
- 3 - Décharges électriques

oui	non

Question 2: La douleur est-elle associée dans la même région à un ou plusieurs des symptômes suivants?

- 4 - Fourmillements
- 5 - Picotements
- 6 - Engourdissement
- 7 - Démangeaisons

oui	non

### EXAMEN DU PATIENT

Question 3: La douleur est-elle localisée dans un territoire où l'examen met en évidence?

- 8 - Hypoesthésie au tact
- 9 - Hypoesthésie à la piqûre

oui	non

Question 4: La douleur est-elle provoquée ou augmentée par:

- 10 - Le frottement

oui	non

## **\*Bloc diagnostic du nerf pudendal**



- Quelque soit la méthode de repérage (radio, scanner, neurostimulation)
- Dans le ligament sacro-épineux ou dans le canal d' Alcock
- Un bloc positif (soulagement de plus de 50% de la douleur dans les suites immédiates de l' infiltration) affirme une atteinte en aval du site d' infiltration *mais pas sa nature*

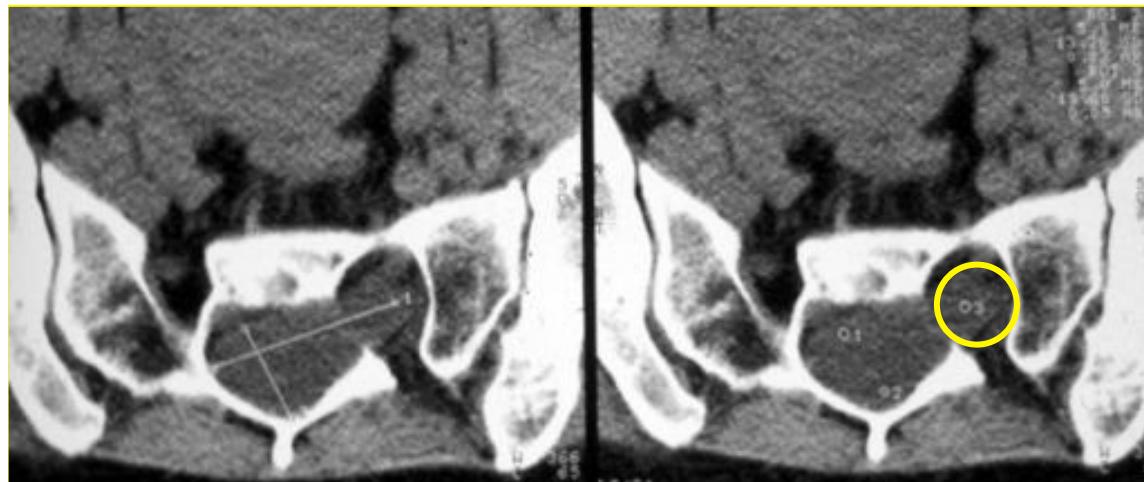
### *8 critères complémentaires au diagnostic de névralgie pudendale*

- Brûlures, tiraillement, engourdissement, décharges électriques
- Allodynie ou hyperpathie
- Sensation de corps étranger endocavitaire (« sympathalgie » rectale ou vaginale)
- Aggravation de la douleur au cours de la journée
- Douleur à prédominance unilatérale
- Douleurs apparaissant après la défécation
- Présence d'une douleur exquise à la pression de l'épine sciatique (surtout si unilatérale)
- Données de l'ENMG chez l'homme ou la femme nullipare\*

## 4 critères d'exclusion

- Douleurs uniquement coccygienne, fessière, pubienne, hypogastrique
- Prurit
- Douleurs uniquement paroxystiques
- Anomalies d' imagerie pouvant expliquer la douleur\*

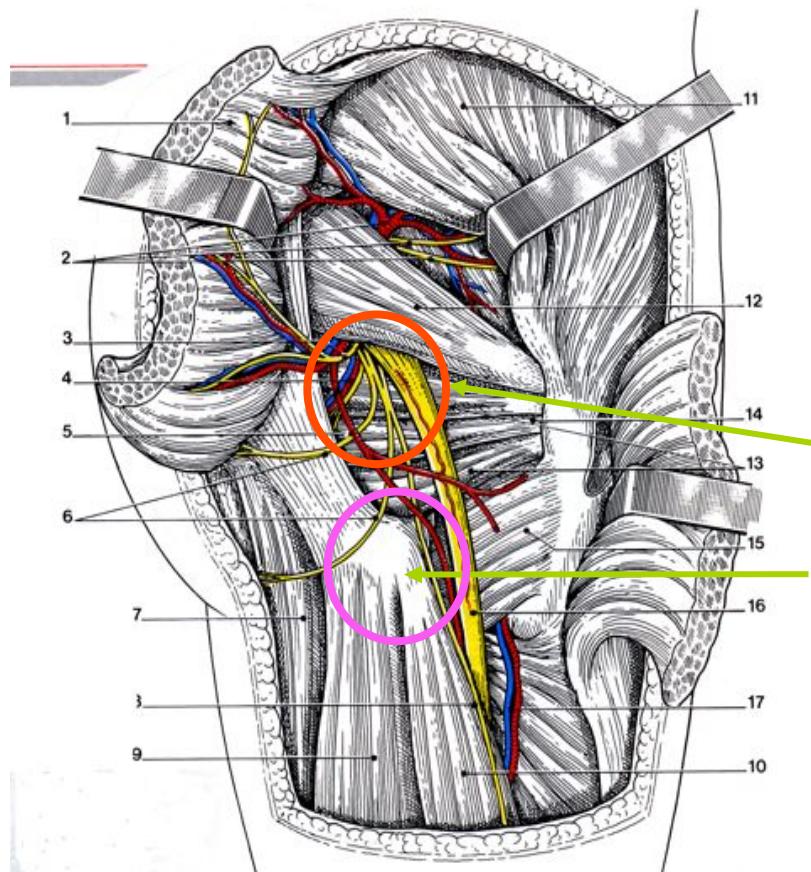
\* problème de la découverte d'un kyste arachnoïdien de Tarlov:*banalité, non symptomatique donc non responsable*



### *Signes associés n'excluant pas le diagnostic*

- irradiations fessières ou au membre inférieur\*, notamment en station assise
- Douleur sus pubienne
- Pollakiurie et/ou douleurs au remplissage vésical
- Douleur apparaissant après l' éjaculation
- Dyspareunie et/ou douleurs après les rapports
- Troubles de l' érection
- Normalité de l' ENMG (n' explore pas toute les fibres)

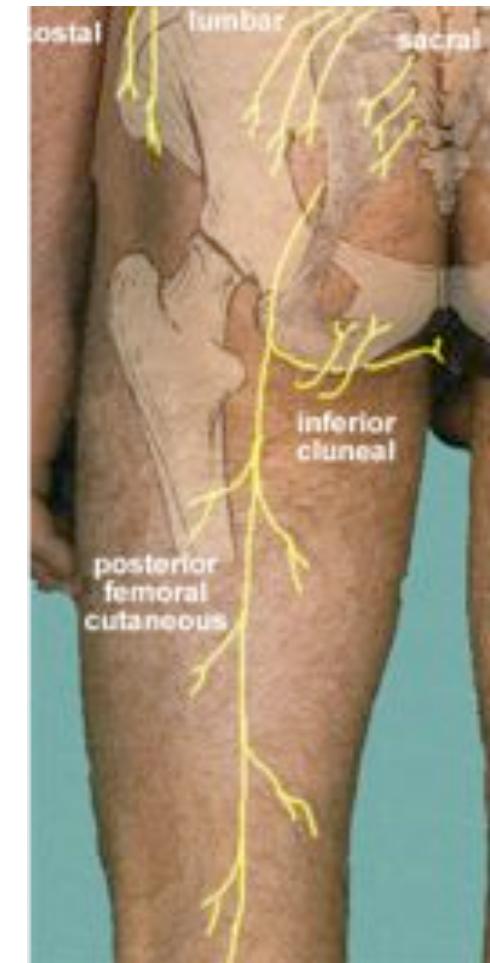
## *syndrome du muscle piriforme*



Canal sous piriforme

Région ischiatique

avec atteinte du nerf cutané post de la cuisse et du nerf clunéal inférieur( double crush)

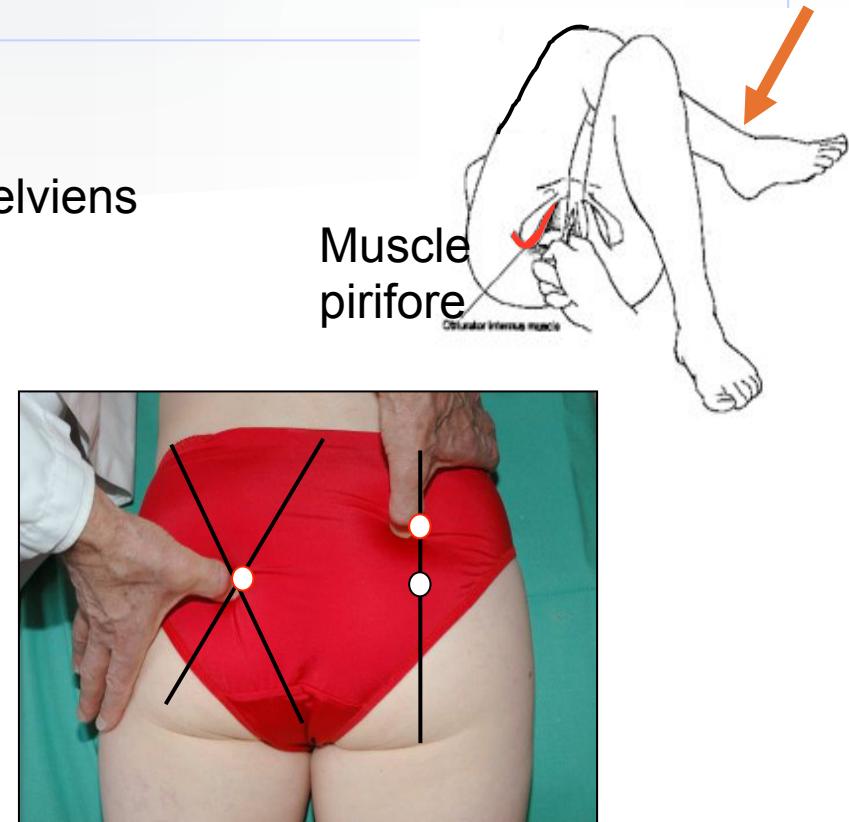


## Douleurs Myo-fasciales

- Points gâchettes à la palpation
  - fesse, paroi abdominale, touchers pelviens

- Tension musculaire
  - Muscles releveurs de l'anus
  - Muscles obturateurs internes
  - Muscles piriformes
  - Muscles psoas

- Douleurs diffuses, physiopathologie obscure
- Causes ou conséquences?



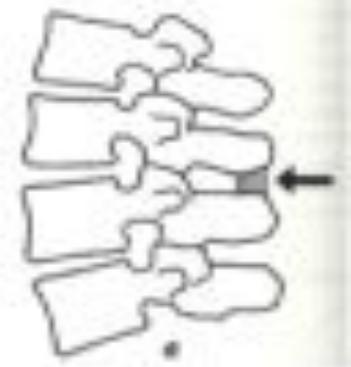
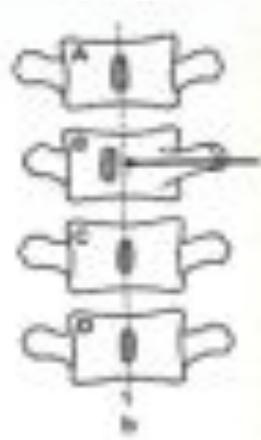
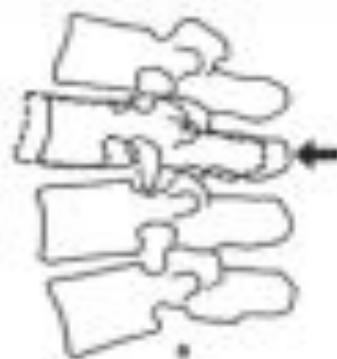
## *Nerf clunéal inférieur*

- 2 sites de conflits
  - Canal sous piriforme avec souffrance nerf cutanée postérieur de la cuisse:
    - irradiations face postérieure de cuisse , ischion et latéro périnéales
    - Hypersensibilité distale à la pression
  - Région ischiatiques:
    - surtout chaises dures, douleurs latéro périnéales, sans douleur de verge ou du clitoris
    - Avec bloc ischiatique positif
- Traitement:
  - Kiné, infiltrations, chirurgie

## Syndrome de Maigne

Examen segmentaire rachidien:

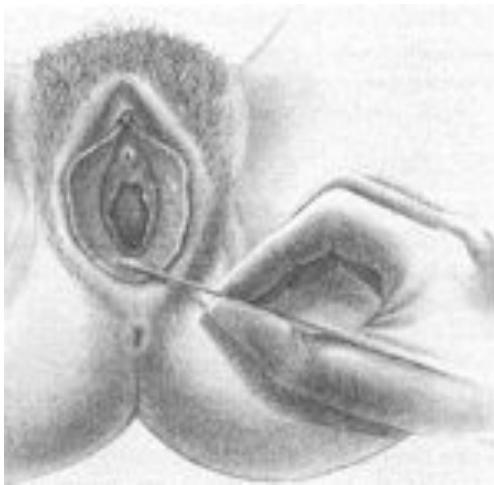
- Pression axiale sur l' épineuse
- Pression latérale sur l' épineuse
- Pression-friction sur les massifs articula postérieurs
- Pression sur le ligament interépineux
- Cellulagie: palper rouler
- Myalgies fessières hautes*
- Hypersensibilité hémipubis*



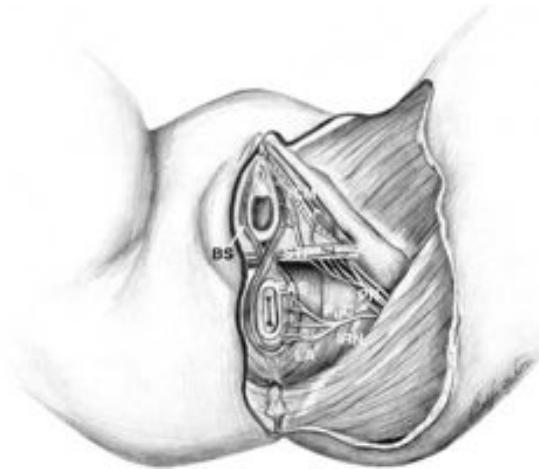


**Alcock's canal syndrome : not only pain !**

# Neurologic examination

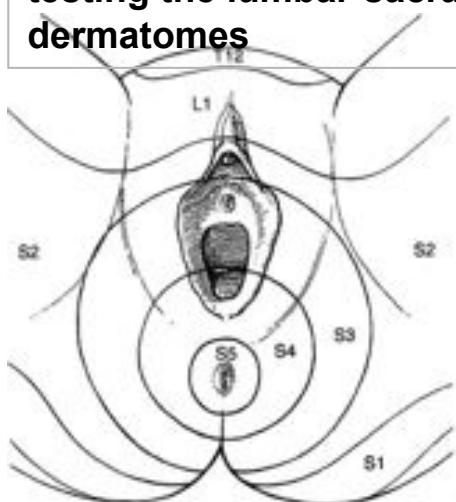


**Loss of touch sensation**

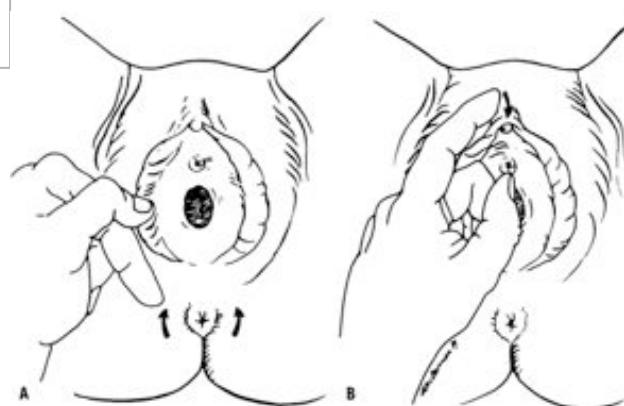


**Anal tone decreased**

**Sensory function is evaluated by testing the lumbar-sacral dermatomes**



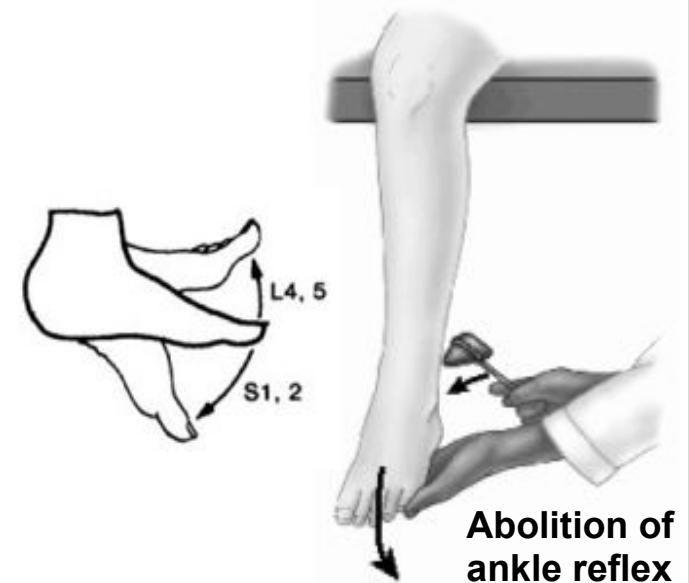
**Motor function is evaluated by testing the muscle strength and tone**



**Abolition of BC reflex**



**Babinski sign**



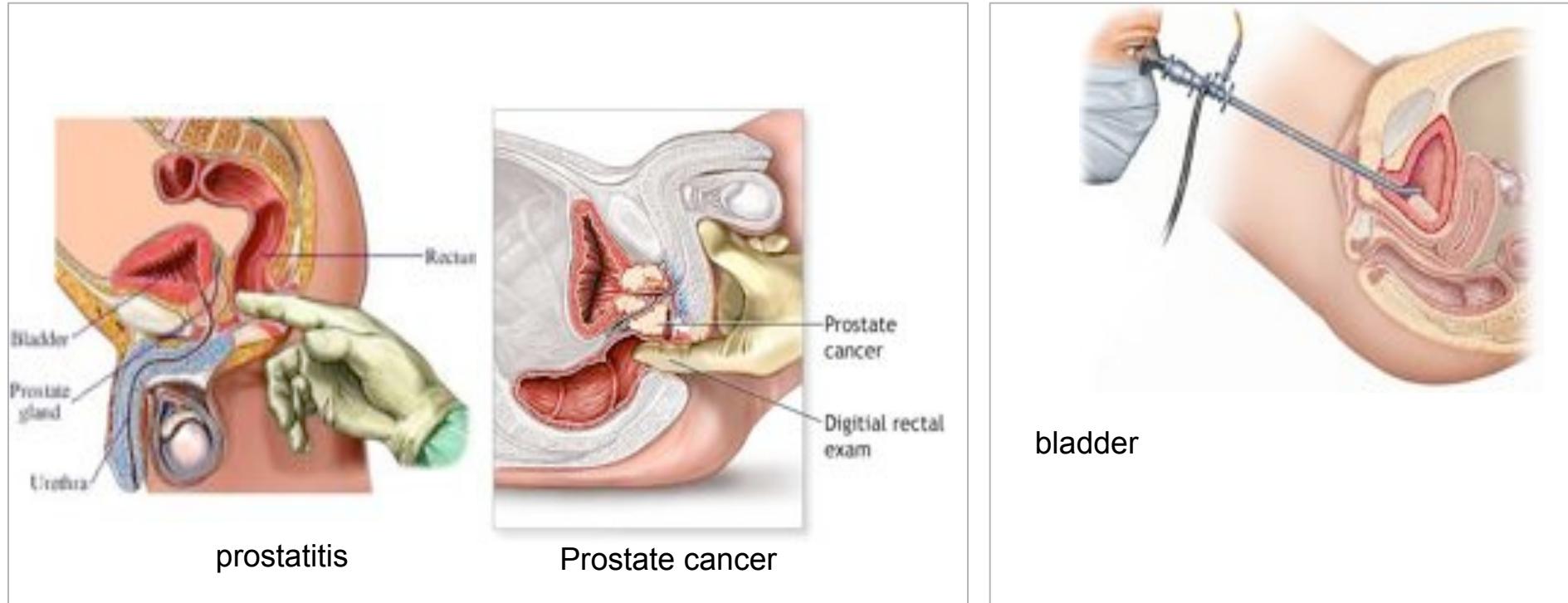
**Abolition of ankle reflex**

**Muscle strength (plantar Flexion) decreased**



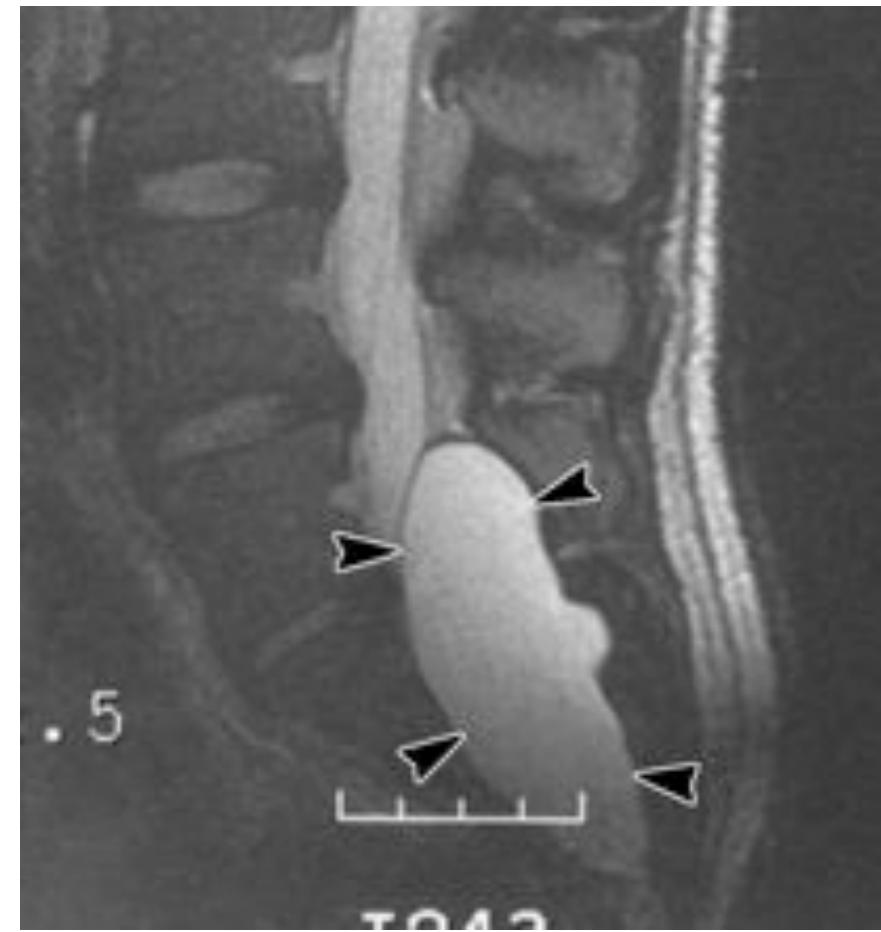
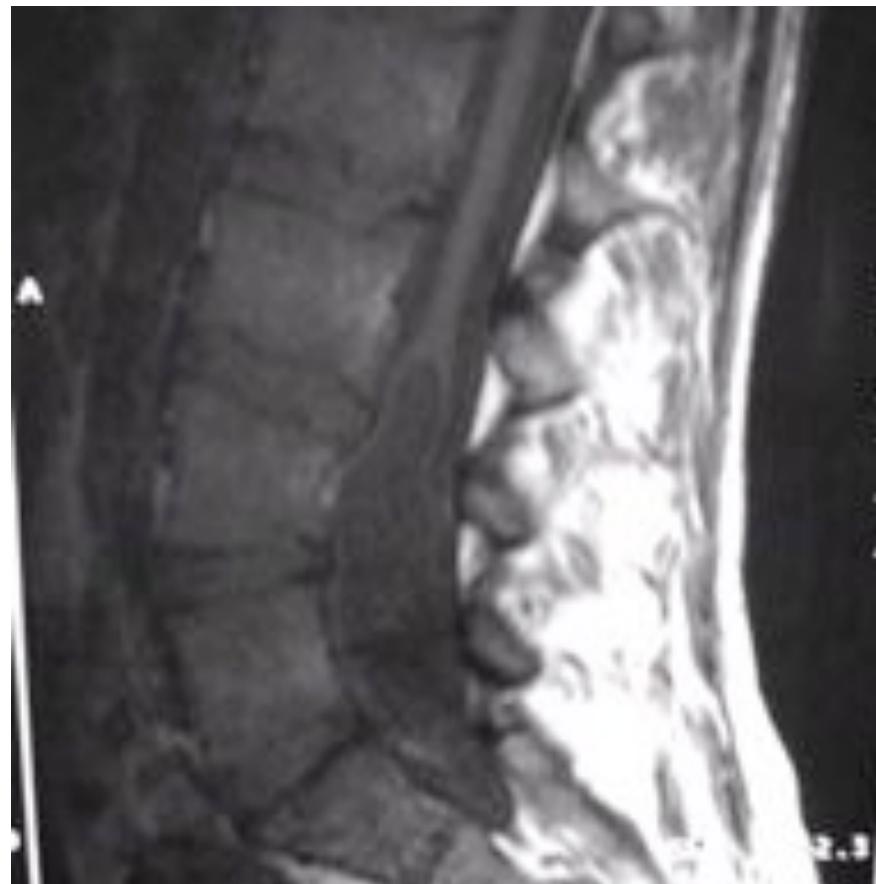
*"There's nothing wrong with your reflexes..."*

Uro-gynecological evaluation : always possible to have associated lesions which lead to perineal pain



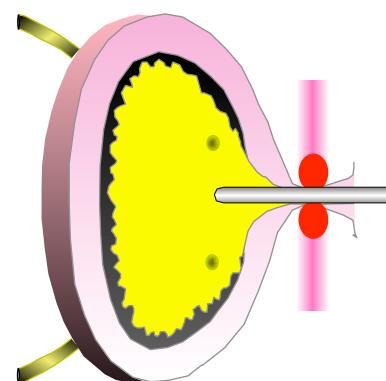
# MRI (spinal cord and pelvis) : always before emg

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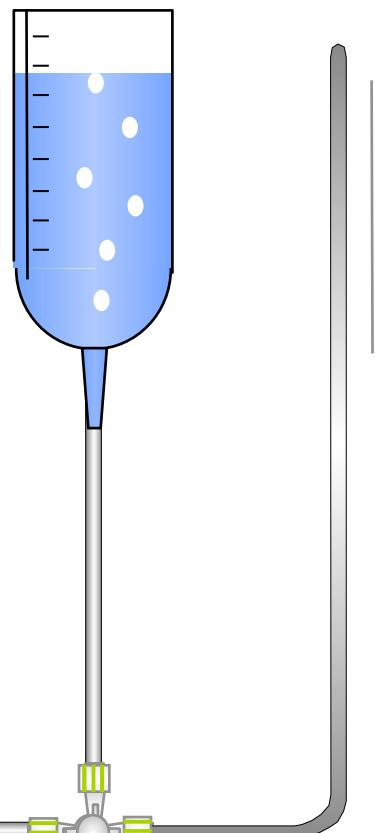


# URODYNAMIC

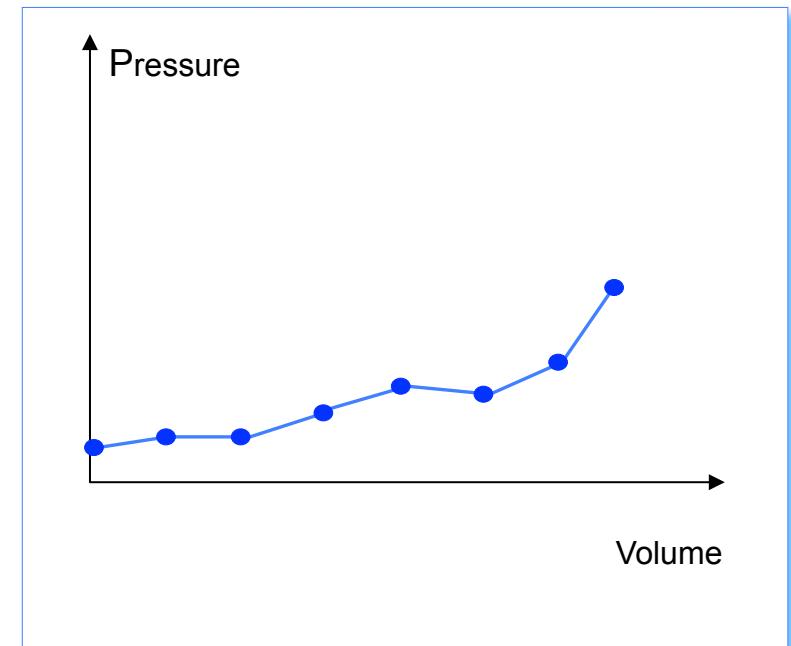
- very important tool to precise pathophysiology
- evaluation of the prognosis
- control of medical (or surgical) treatment
- rarely diagnostic interest



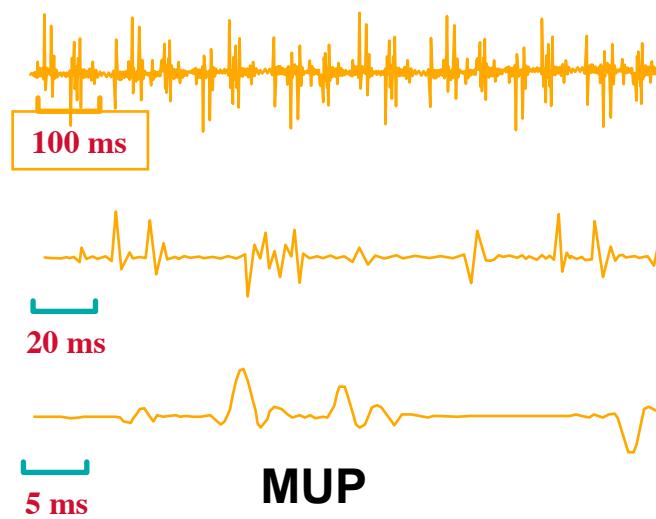
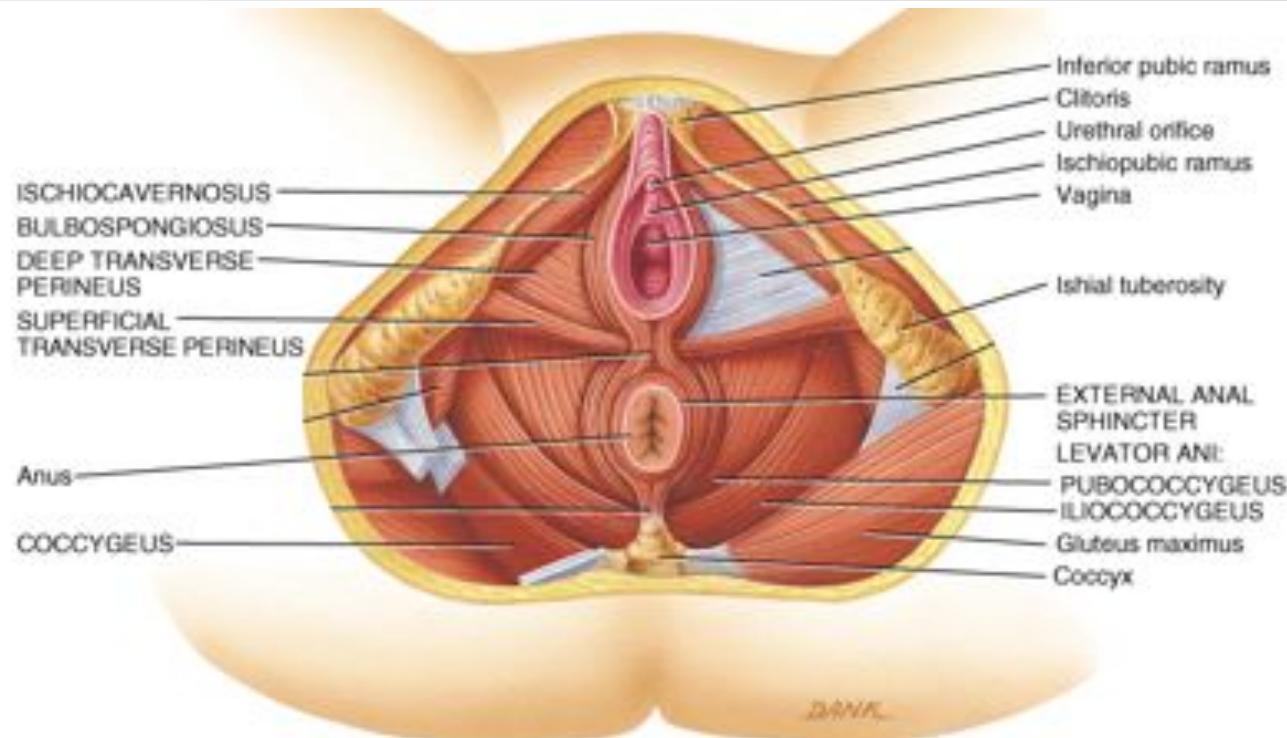
**3-way stopcock**



Vesical pressure



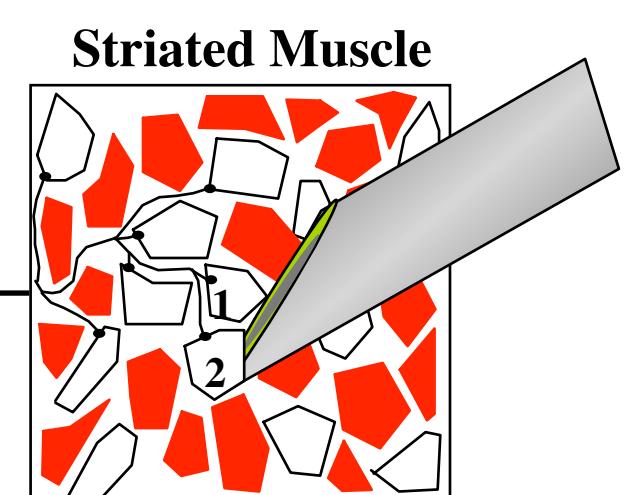
# electromyography



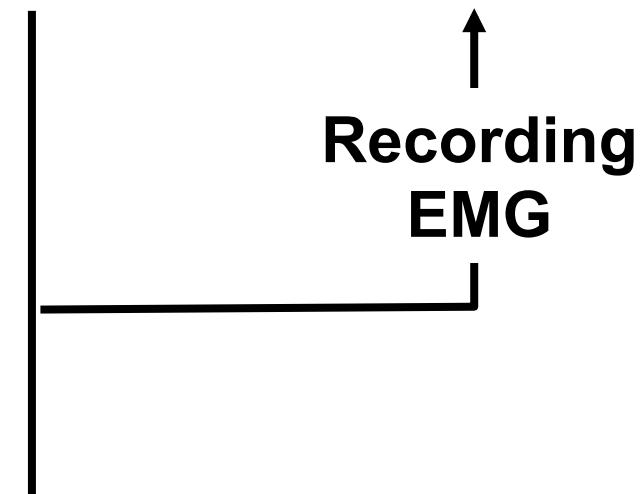
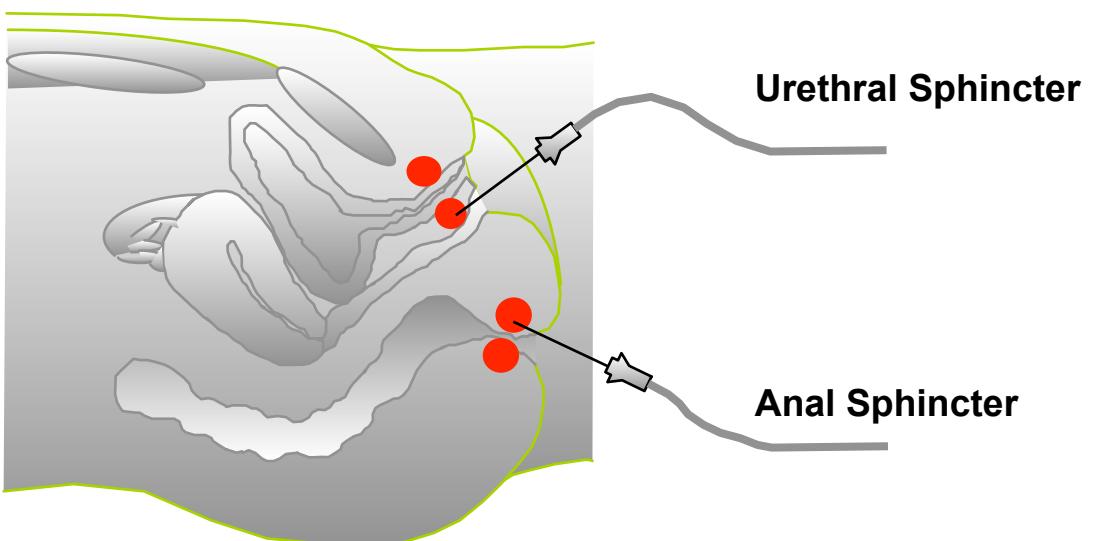
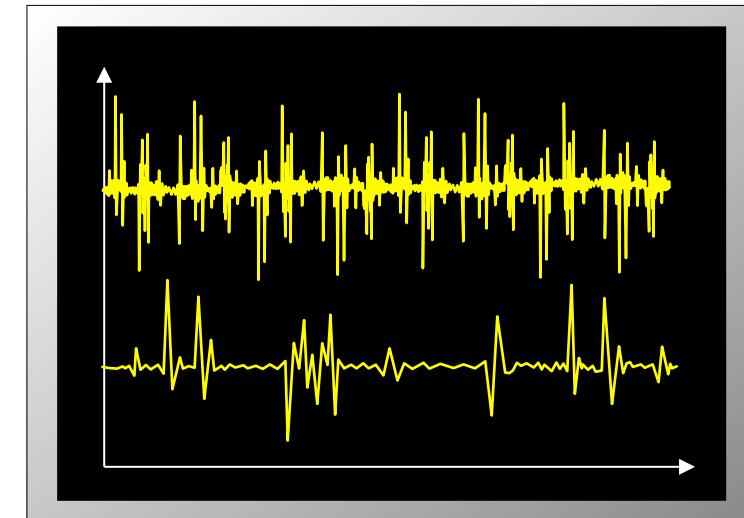
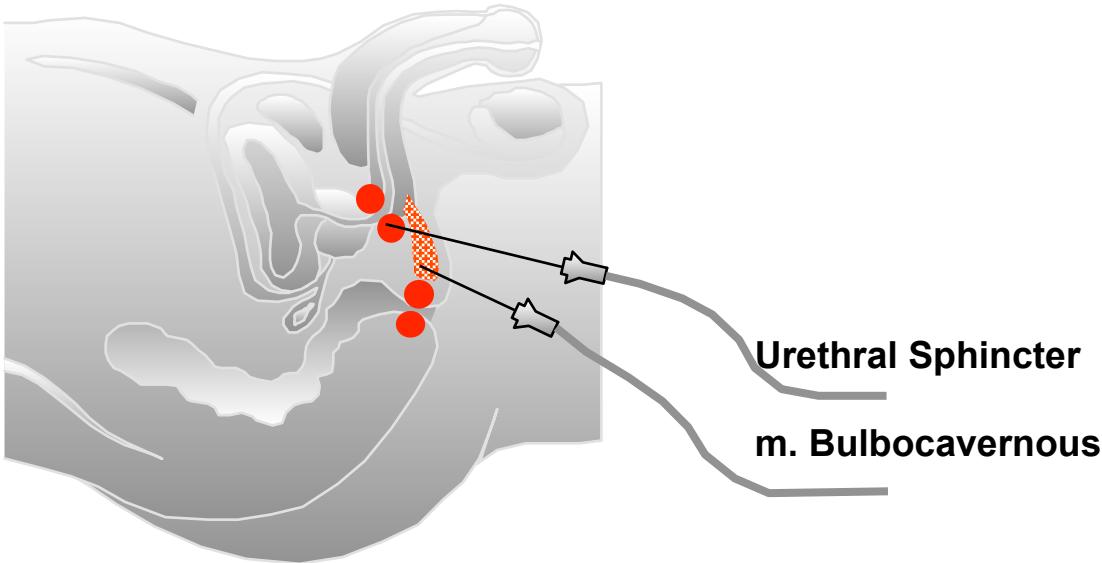
Motor Unit



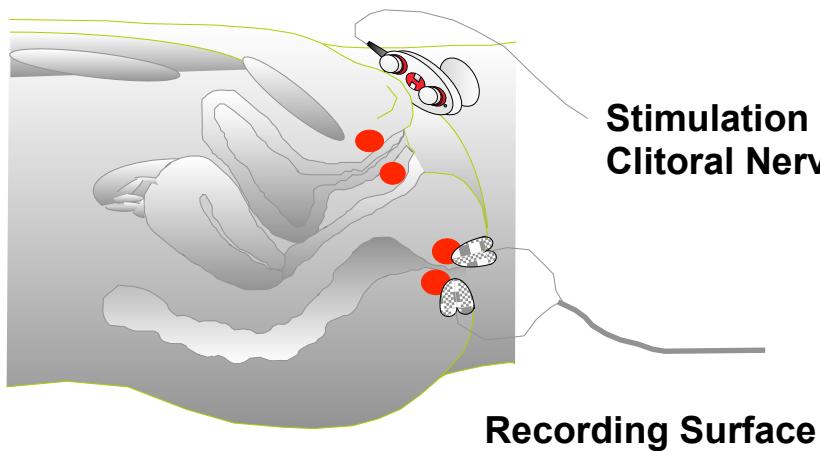
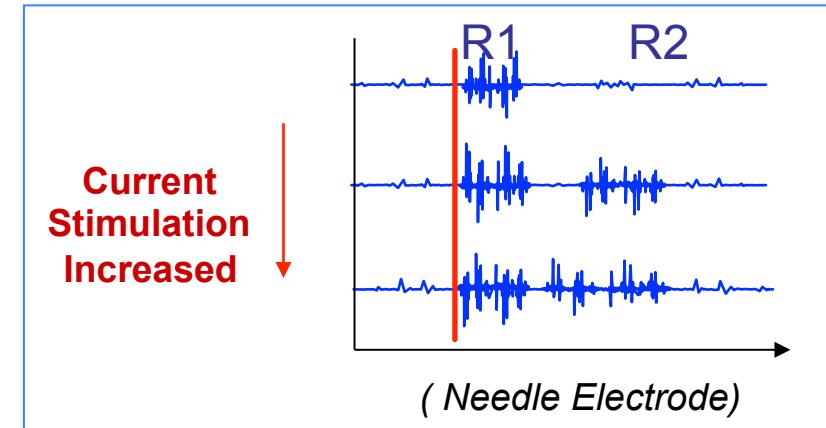
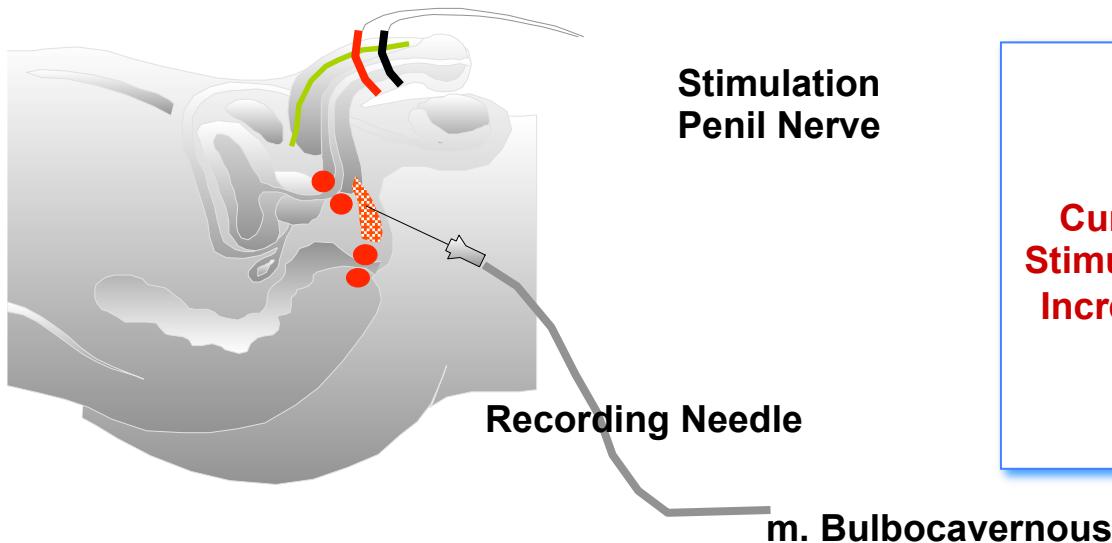
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# Electromyography



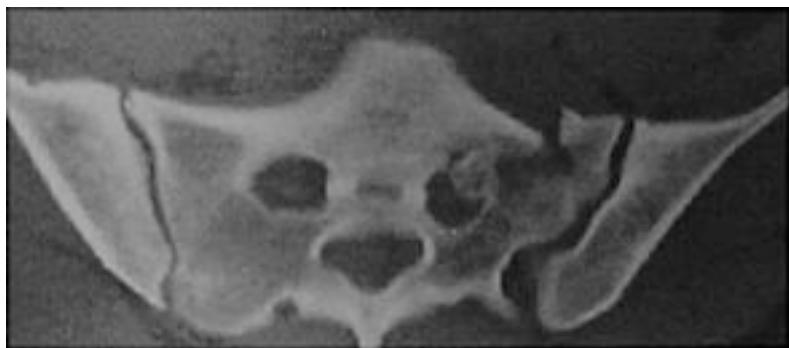
# Bulbocavernous Reflex



Recording Reflex  
Latency R1  
typ. 33 ms



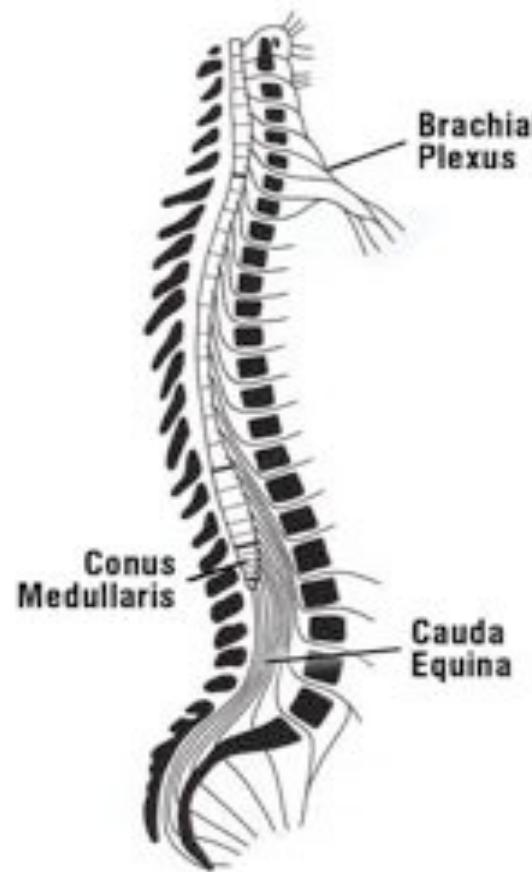
# Interest of bulbo-cavernosus reflex



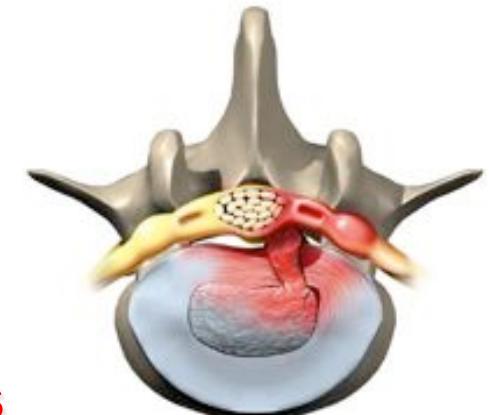
Sacrum fracture



Sacral tumors Spinal tumors



Disk herniation

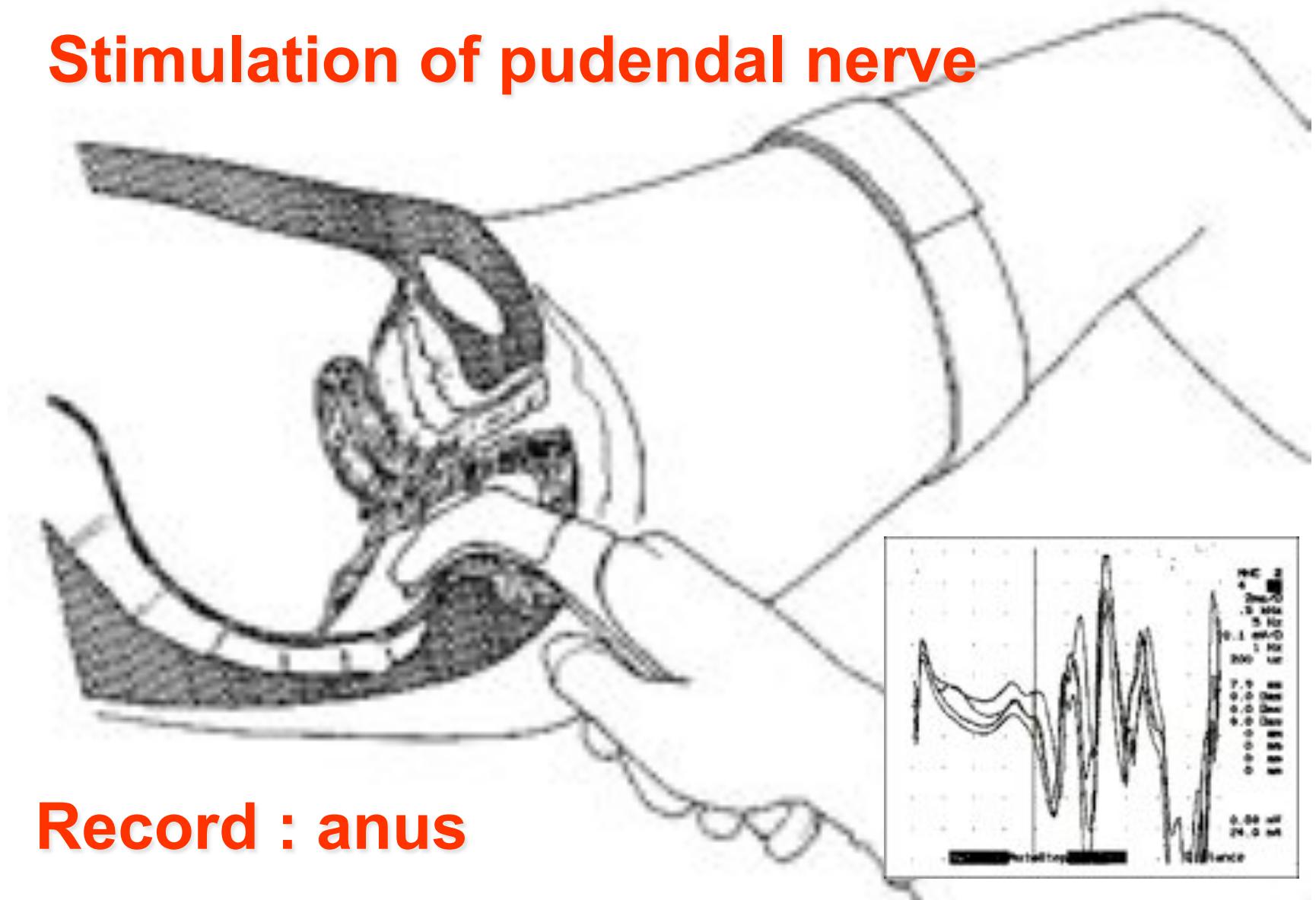


- diagnosis
- prognosis

## Pudendal nerve terminal motor latency

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**Stimulation of pudendal nerve**

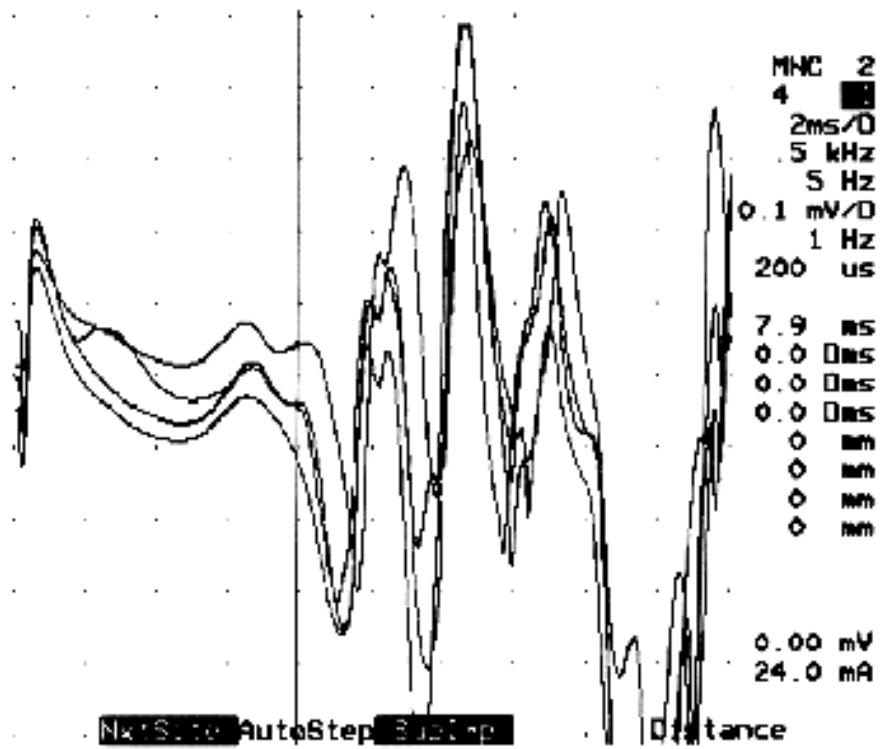




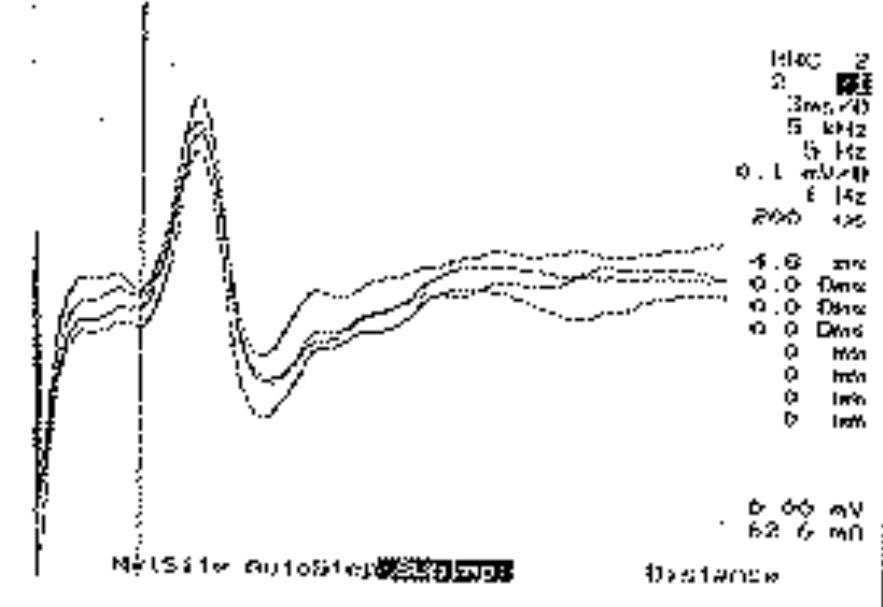
**St Marks electrode**







Record in BC muscle



Record in anal muscle

# **Restrictions of emg examination**

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- **poor specificity :**
  - electrical abnormalities are very frequent in various populations and not systematically secondary to a pudendal neuropathy caused by entrapment : stretch perineal neuropathy (childbirth, pregnancy, distal constipation, anismus); history of pelvic surgery, diabetes mellitus, alcoolic abuse, other neuropathy, ...) ; spinal stenosis, ...
- **poor sensitivity :**
  - emg essentially studies motor fibers with important diameter (not the small)
  - thus, normal examination do not exclude the diagnosis
- **pronostic value :**
  - none study demonstrates a correlation between emg abnormalities and effects of infiltrations / surgery ;

# Restrictions of PNTML

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- poor specificity :
  - delayed latency is very frequent in various populations and not systematically secondary to a pudendal neuropathy caused by entrapment : stretch perineal neuropathy (childbirth, pregnancy, distal constipation, anismus); history of pelvic surgery, diabetes mellitus, alcoolic abuse, other neuropathy, ...) ;
  - assymetry of the right/left latencies are essential for diagnosis
- poor sensitivity :
  - technical problems (length of the index, record by means needle, bad contact between electrode and muscle, no discriminative stimulation, ..)
- pronostic value :
  - none study demonstrates a correlation between emg abnormalities and effects of infiltrations / surgery ;

## **Restrictions of bulbo-cavernosus reflex**

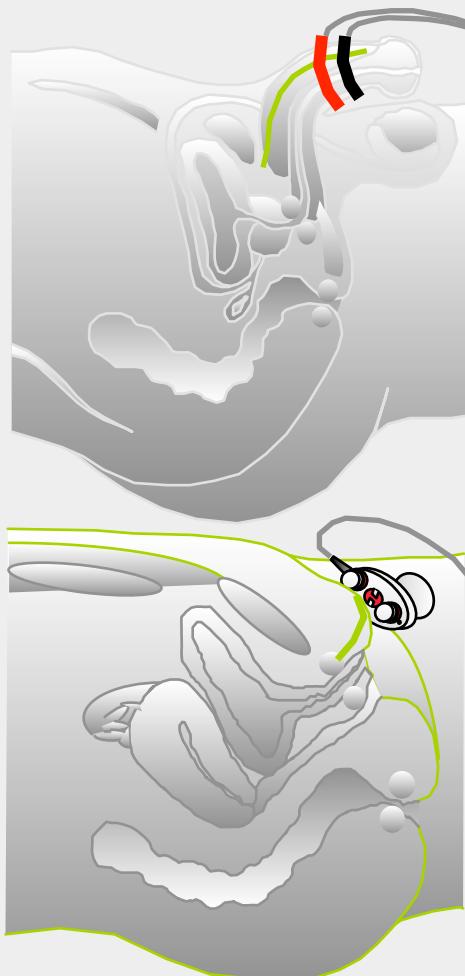
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- **poor specificity :**
  - increased latency can be observed rather in proximal lesions (spinal cord, sacral plexus)
- **poor sensitivity :**
  - necessity to compare both right and left latency
  - normal examination do not exclude the diagnosis
- **pronostic value :**
  - none study demonstrates a correlation between BC reflex latency and effects of infiltrations / surgery ;

## **Others electrophysiological tests**

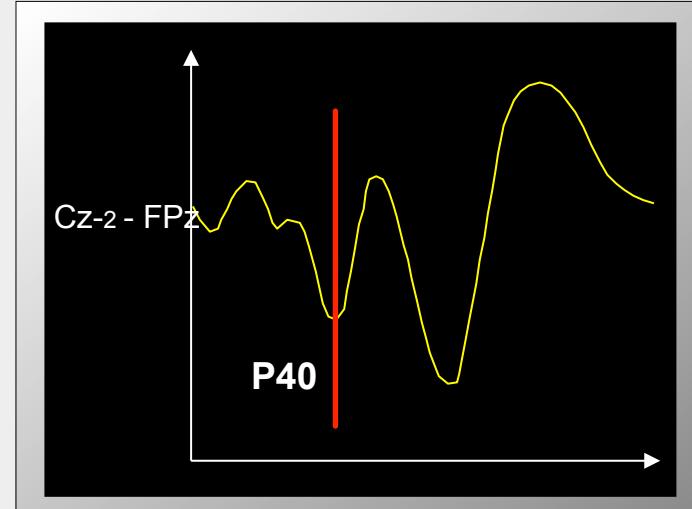
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# Evoked Potential

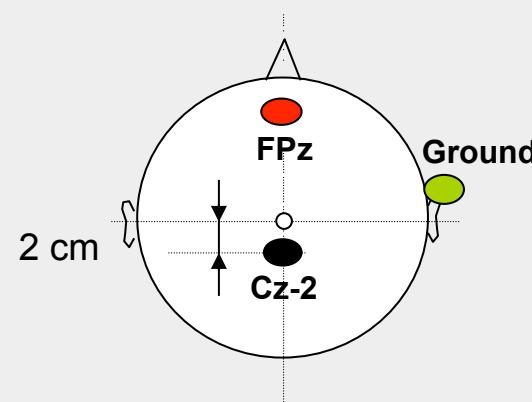


Stimulation  
Penile Nerve

Stimulation  
Clitoral Nerve



Record on Scalp with Scalp Needle  
or Surface Electrode  
Averaging : 200

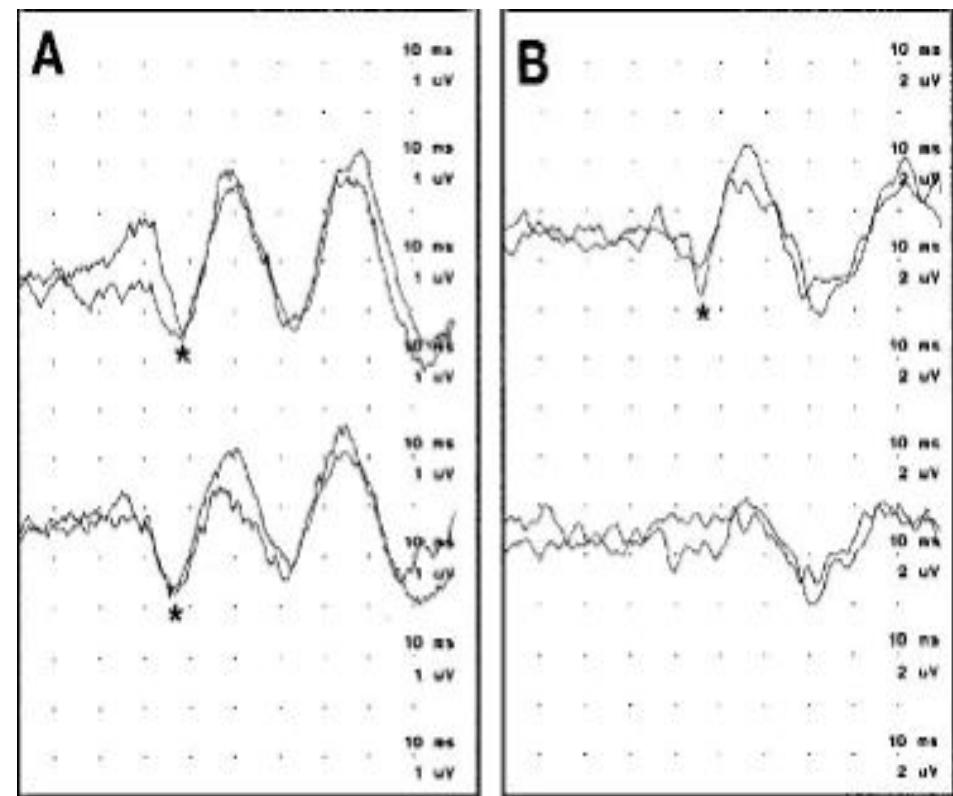


**Latency P40**  
**typ. 39 ms**  
**(nl < 44 ms)**

# *Testing conduction through nervous pathways - peripheral nerves; central tracts...*

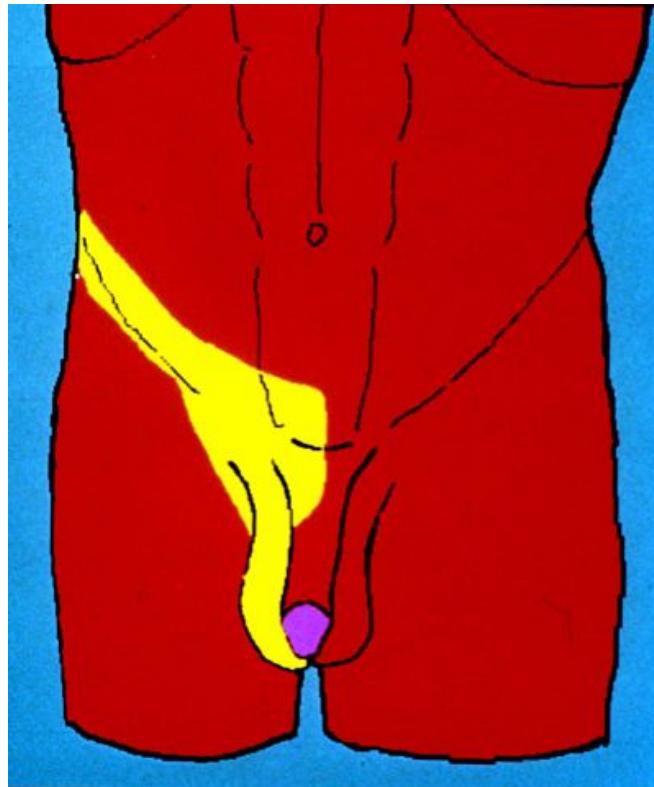
## Demyelination

- Slowed conduction
- Block of conduction
- Somatosensory EP to unilateral dorsal clitoral nerve stimulation in a normal woman (left panel) and a woman with MS

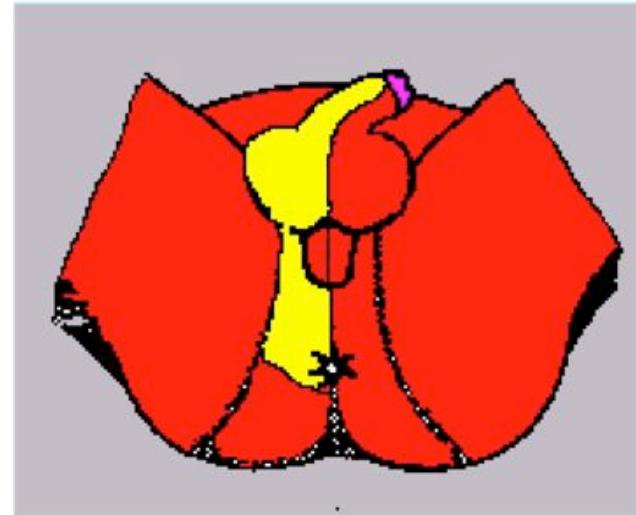


## **Others electrophysiological tests**

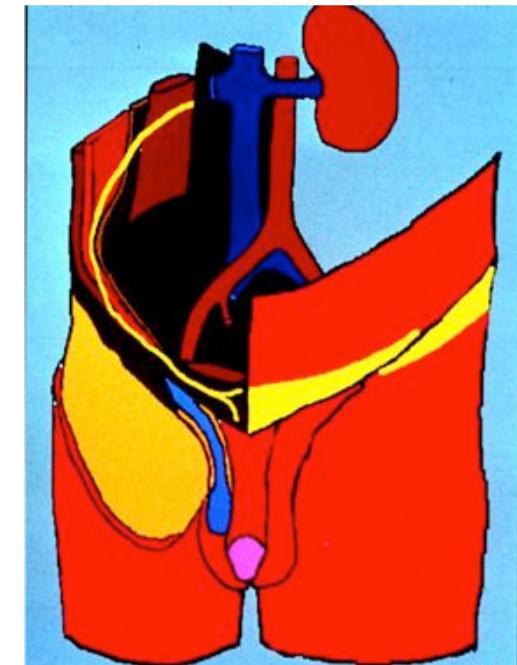
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**Ilio-inguinal nerve**



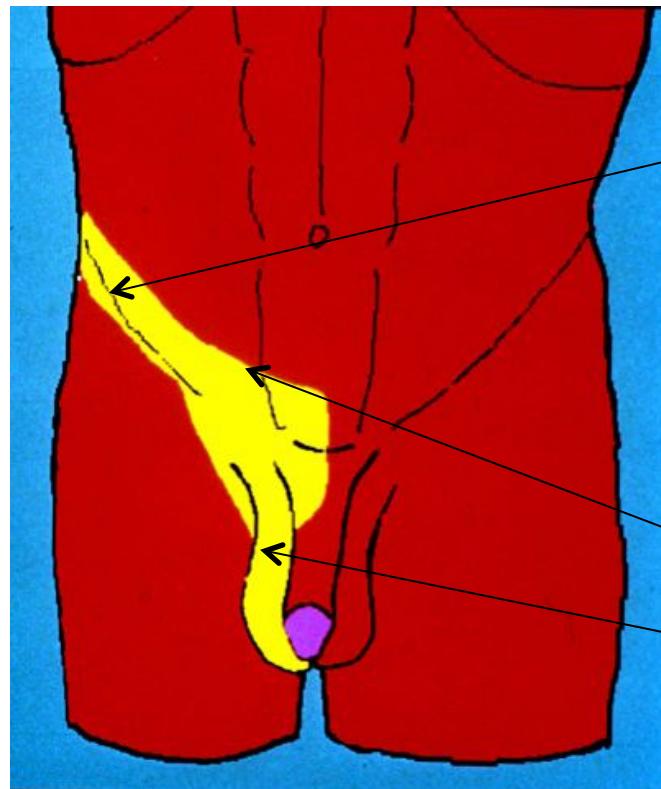
**pudendal nerve**



**Ilio-hypogastric nerve**

## **Others electrophysiological tests**

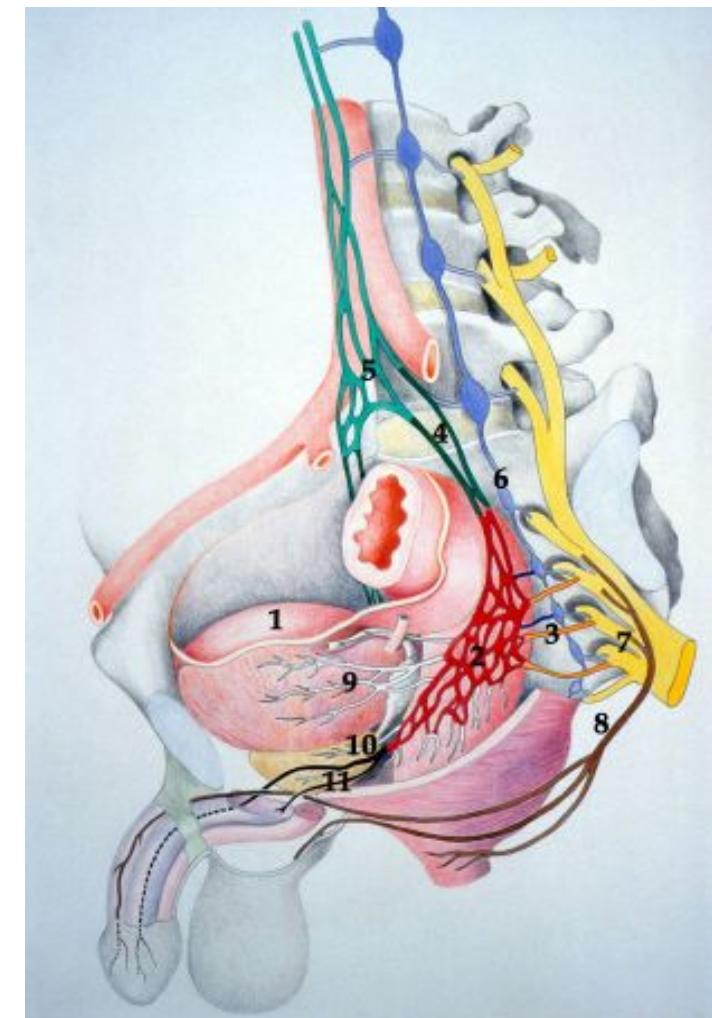
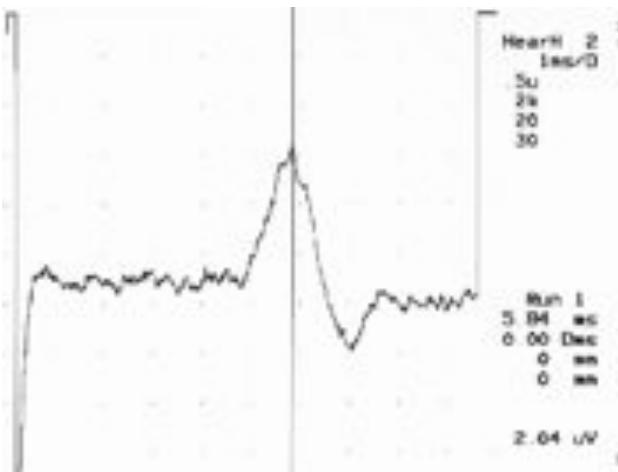
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**Stimulation**

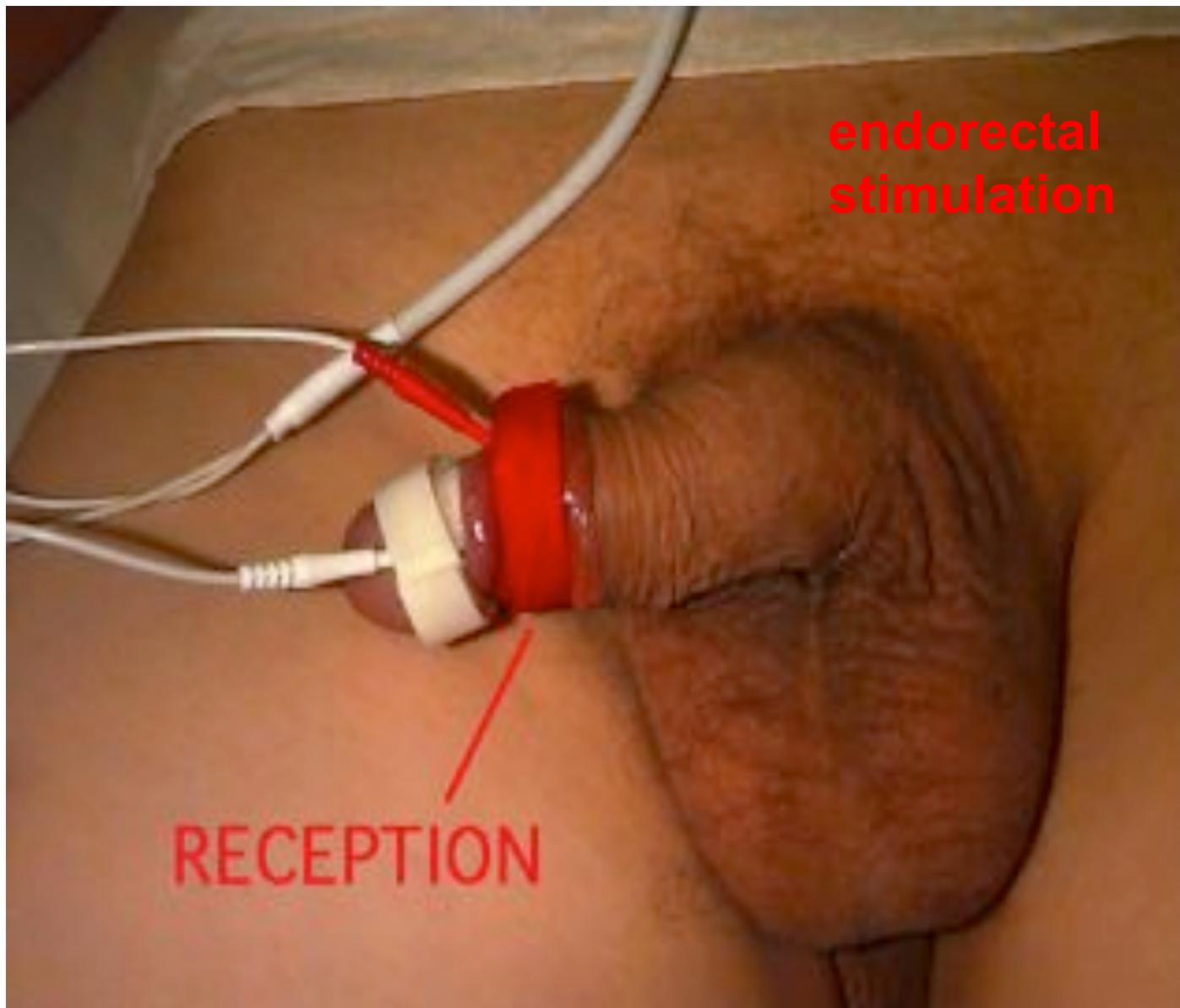
**recueil**

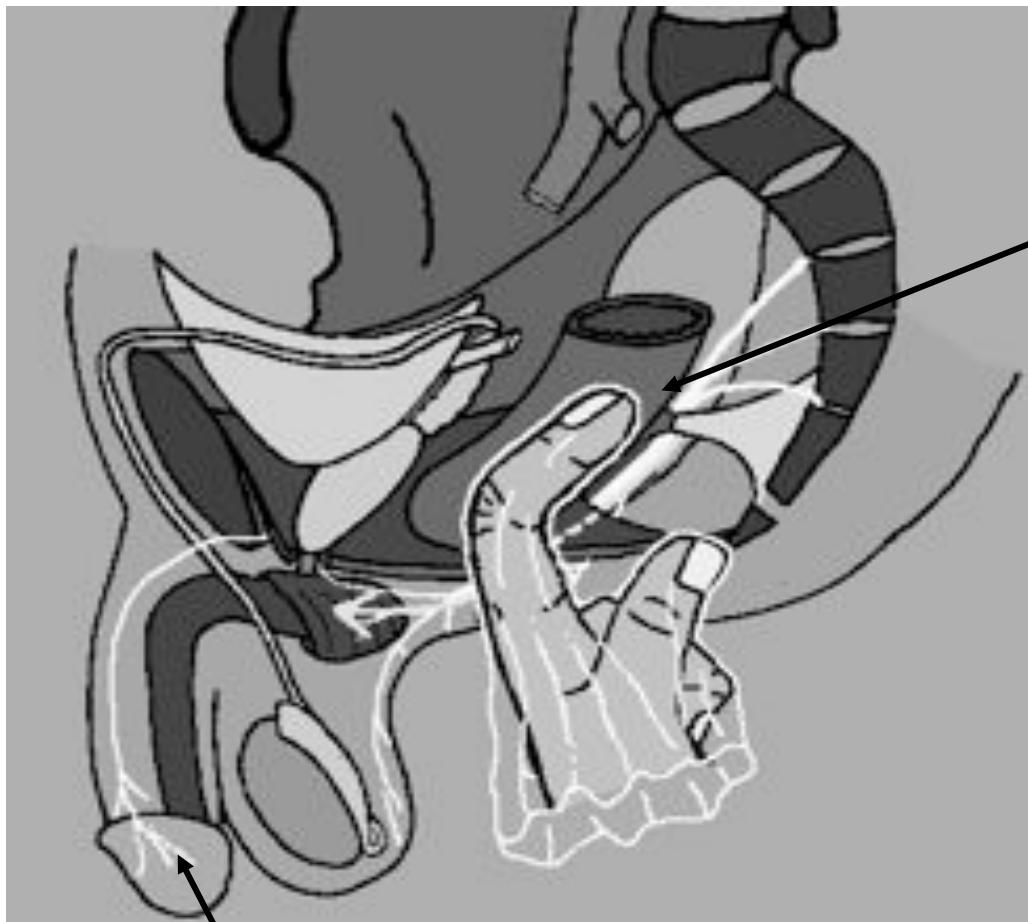
# Sensory velocity of dorsal nerve of penis



## Terminal sensitive latency of pudendal nerve

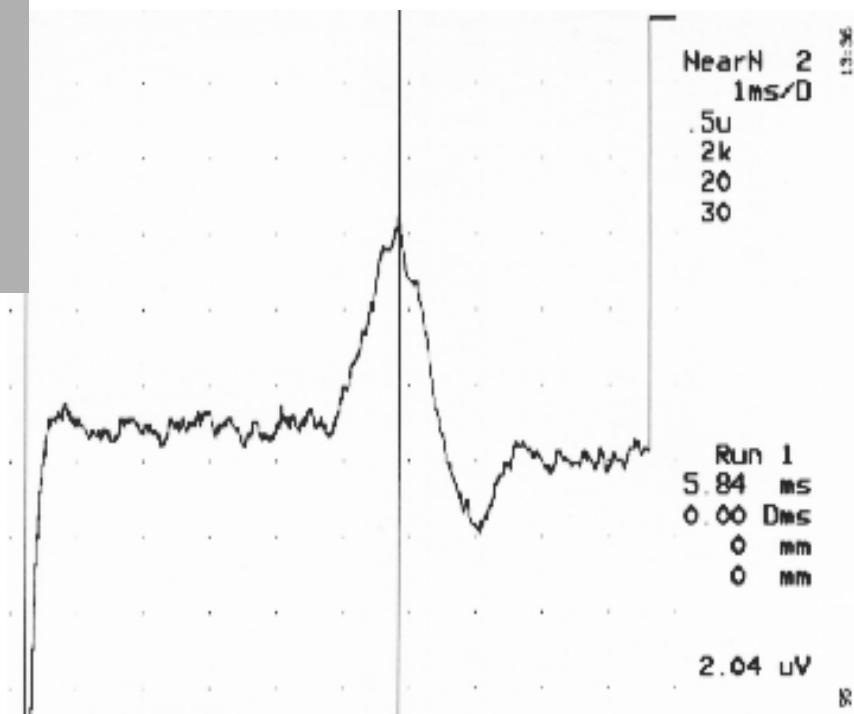
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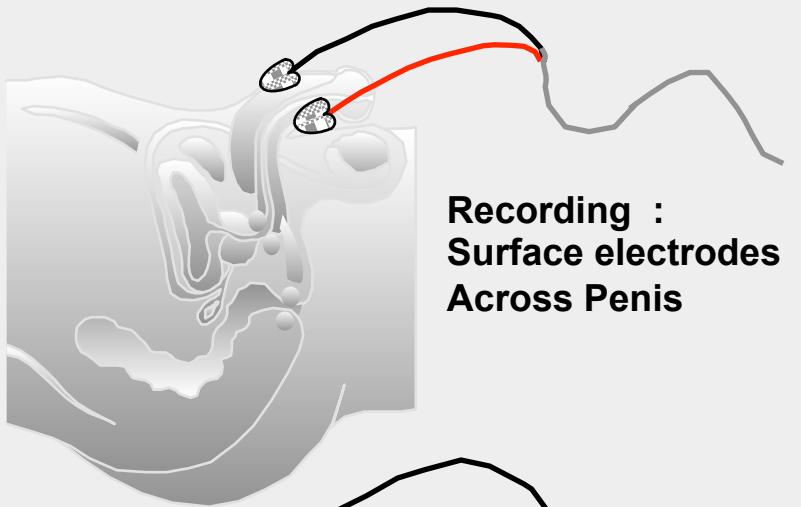


**Stimulation of  
pudendal nerve  
within the  
rectum**

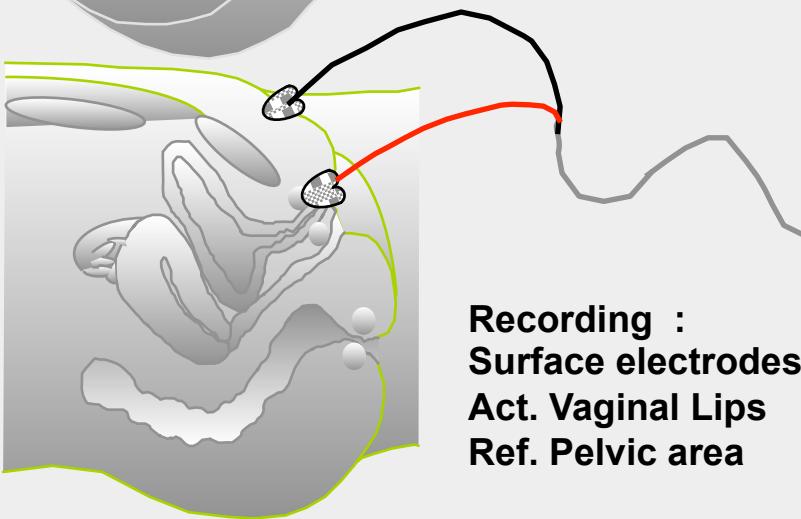
**Record of sensory  
potential**



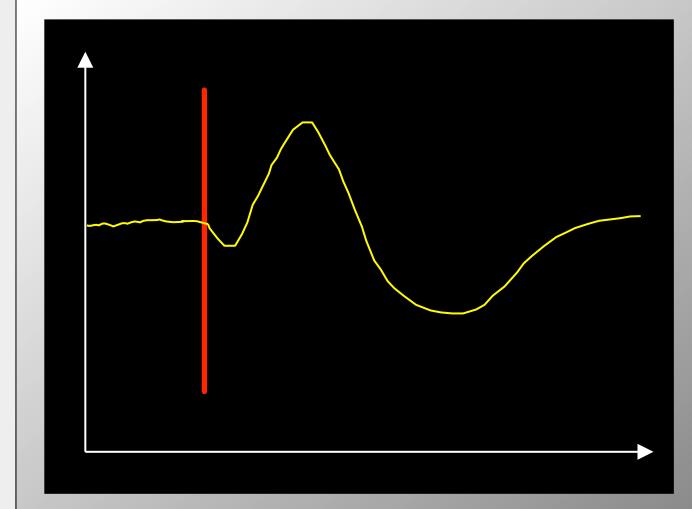
# Sympathetic Response



Recording :  
Surface electrodes  
Across Penis



Recording :  
Surface electrodes  
Act. Vaginal Lips  
Ref. Pelvic area



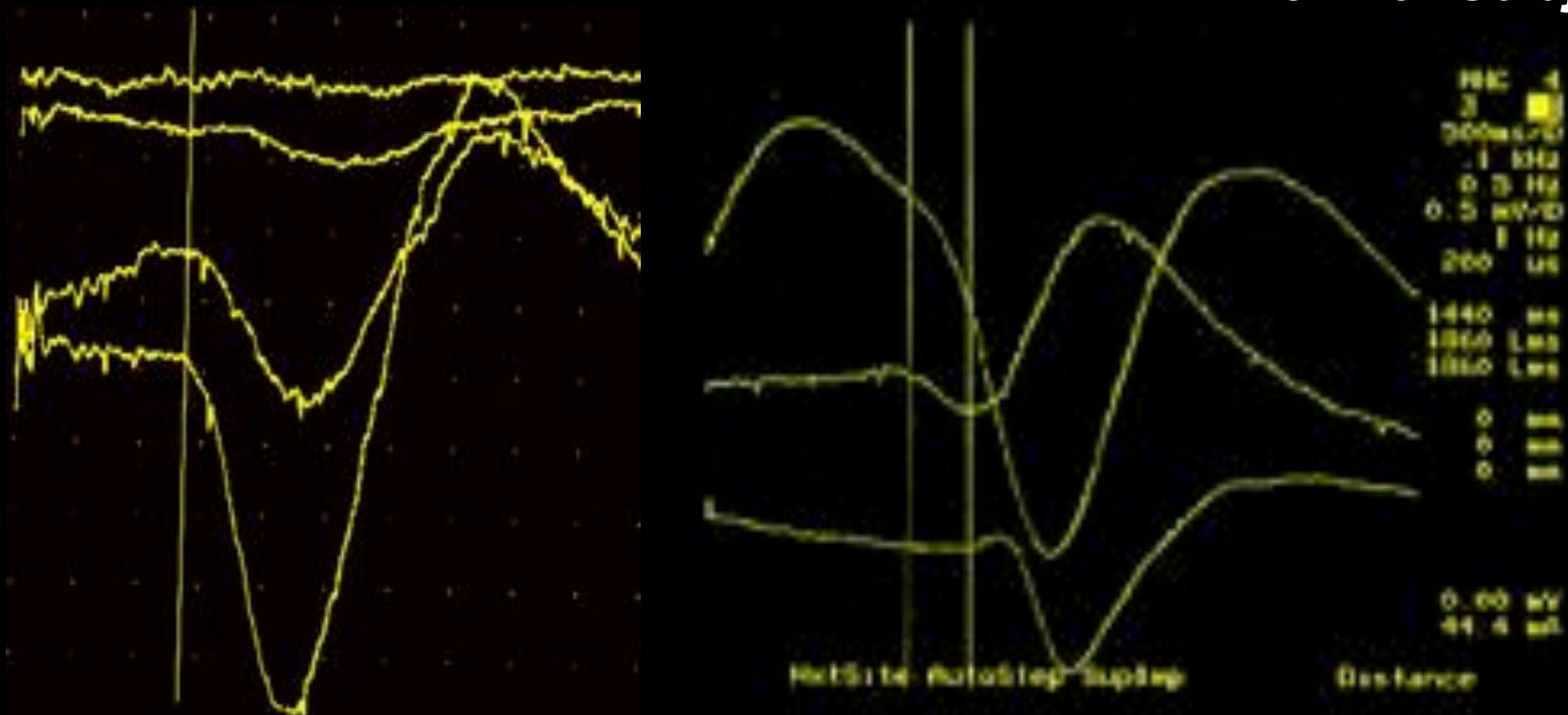
Typ. Lat. 1,5 s  
Amplitude : 2 - 3 mV

Stimulation Median nerve, Intensity 3 times  
sensory threshold.



## Sympathetic Response

Normal subject



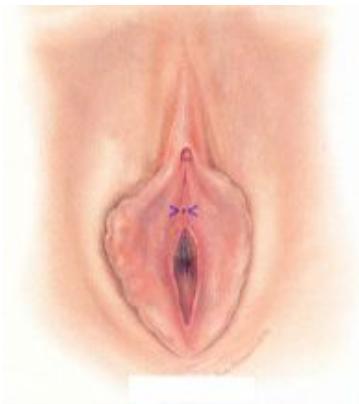
Alteration of SSR in Pudendal neuralgia ?

# **Medical treatment...**

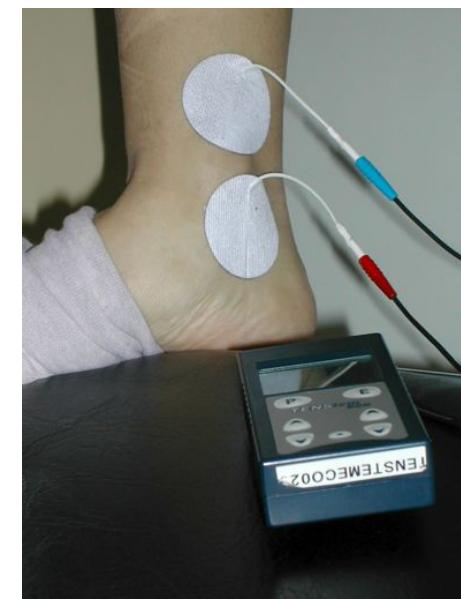
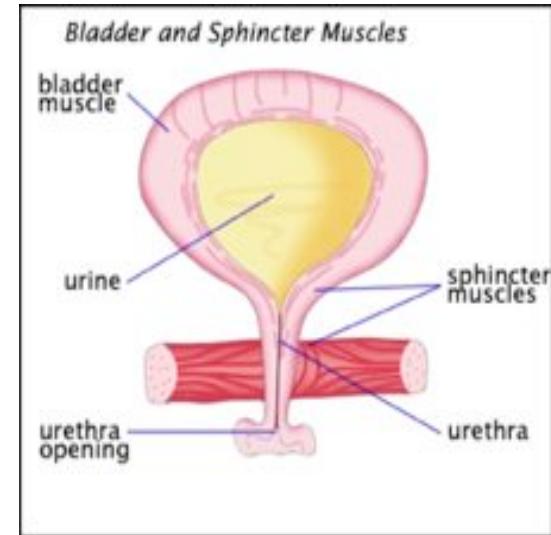
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- **antalgiques neurotropes**
- **prise en charge multi-modale**
- **neurostimulation**
- **approche psycho-comportementale**
- **reeducation**

# Alphabloquants, stimulation SPI, reeducation, toxine...



100 UI BOTOX®

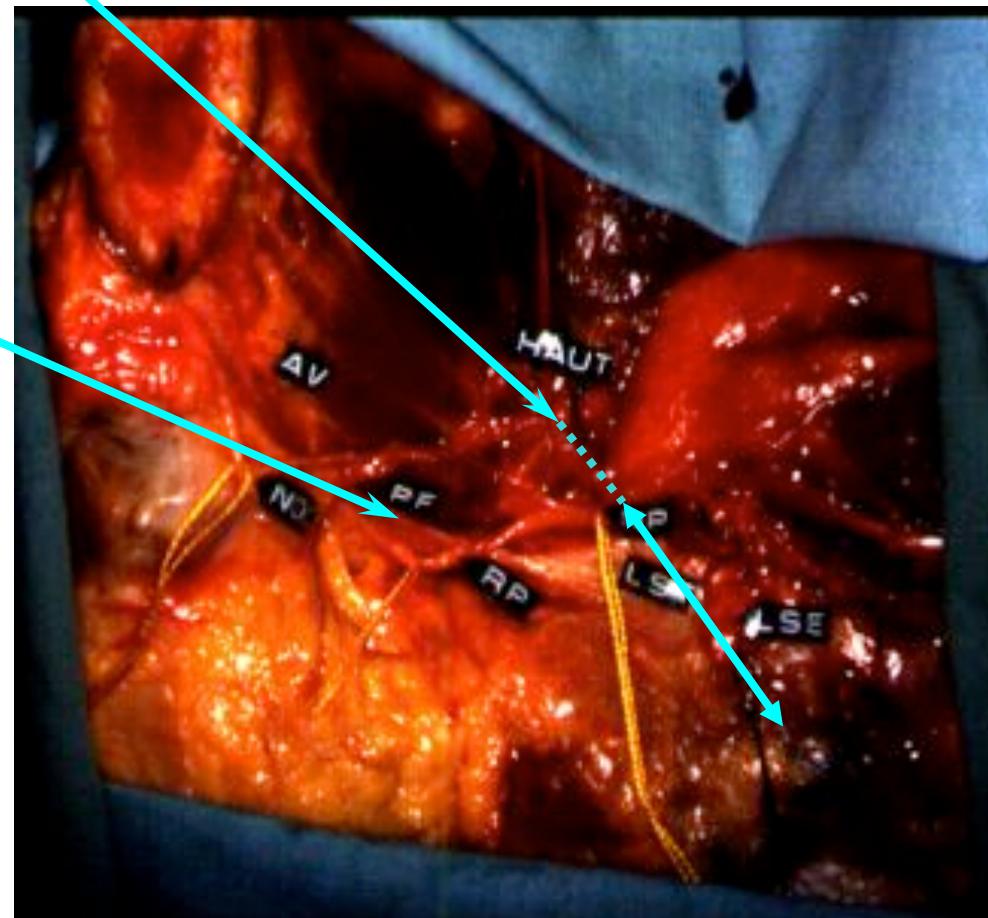


# Surgery ...

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Ischial spine

pudendal nerve



# Conclusion

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**Emg is only a test of second (or third line ...) with very specific indications**

- **Pain following surgery**
- **Before a surgery of the pudendal nerve (decompression)**
- **Clinical examination and block tests : doubtful**
- **Objective loss of sensibility**
- **Abnormalities of neurological clinical examination without pathology tracked down by means MRI**



## Take home messages



Civilization pathology ?

Emg ... not systematically !



Clinical examination !