SATISFACTION WITH AND EXPERIENCES OF PATIENTS WHO RECEIVED SACRAL NEUROMODULATION

Hypothesis / aims of study
Since 1990 we offer Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM) treatment to patients with overactive bladder syndrome and for patients with bladder retention refractory to conservative therapy (1). Many publications on this cohort were written including long-term results (2), however a systematic investigation on long-term patient satisfaction and their experiences with SNM is lacking. We therefore conducted a systematic survey among all implanted patients, assessing long term satisfaction and experiences.

Study design, materials and methods
All our patients, who received sacral neuromodulation therapy between 1990 and 2007 and who still have the implant, were included in the survey sample. They all received a postal questionnaire regarding their satisfaction and their experiences with the system such as side effects, complications, burdens, sexuality and defecation changes. After one month a reminder was sent. Data were checked for completeness and analysed with SPSS 15.0. Data are presented as summary statistics, means (SD’s) and cross-tabulations where appropriate.

Results
In total 275 questionnaires were sent, with a response rate of 65%. The population consisted of 81% females, 72% had overactive bladder syndrome and 28% bladder retention.
Overall satisfaction was high, however, a number of side effects was reported such as pain at the IPG site and pain due to the stimulation itself, nevertheless most do not require therapy. Most of those who also had defecation problems experience some symptom relieve. Almost none of the patients experience the SNM as a burden in their life. Detailed statistical analysis is performed.

Interpretation of results
The results show a high satisfaction rate among patients with SNM. The number of side effects is limited, but further analyses in prospective cohorts should identify those who are likely to have side effects or who are likely to stop with SNM treatment.

Concluding message
Sacral Neuromodulation is a safe and satisfactory method to treat overactive bladder syndrome or bladder retention.

References

Specify source of funding or grant
WAMU (through an unrestricted education grand of Medtronic)

Is this a clinical trial?
No

What were the subjects in the study?
HUMAN

Was this study approved by an ethics committee?
Yes

Specify Name of Ethics Committee
Medical Ethical Committee azM/UM

Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?
Yes

Was informed consent obtained from the patients?
Yes