

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 experiences 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

1. World J Urol. 1998;16(5):313-21
2. J Urol. 2007 Nov;178(5):2029-34

<i>Specify source of funding or grant</i>	WAMU (through an unrestricted education grant of Medtronic)
<i>Is this a clinical trial?</i>	No
<i>What were the subjects in the study?</i>	HUMAN
<i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i>	Yes
<i>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</i>	Medical Ethical Committee azM/UM
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	Yes