



# 013IC - 10 Must-Knows for Pelvic Pain - To Always Do and Never Miss

**Friday, May 15**

## **Faculty**

**Elise J. B. De, MD**

**Kenneth M. Peters, MD**

**Sijo J. Parekattil, MD**

**Brian M. Inouye, MD**

**Jennifer Pollard**

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# 10 Must-Knows for Pelvic Pain: 5 to Always Do 5 to Never Miss

2 hour Course  
35 min Q and A

013 IC  
May 15, 2026



| Course Schedule – 2 Hours |                                                                                                                                  |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 10 min                    | 1 - Introduction of Speakers<br>- Stated assumptions of audience knowledge                                                       | Elise De             |
| 15 min                    | 2 - Always Do – <b>Identify HTPFD</b><br>Never Miss – <b>Pudendal neuralgia</b>                                                  | Ken Peters           |
| 15 min                    | 3 - Always Do – <b>Look beyond IC</b><br>Never Miss – <b>Sacral pathology</b>                                                    | Elise De             |
| 15 min                    | 4 - Always Do – <b>ID bladder centric pain pre- cystectomy</b><br>Never Miss – <b>Pyocystis</b>                                  | Brian Inouye         |
| 15 min                    | Discussion, Q and A, Audience Cases                                                                                              | Audience and Faculty |
| 10 min                    | 5 - Always do – <b>Use targeted therapies prior to excision</b><br>Never miss - <b>Upper tract cause of scrotal content pain</b> | Sijo Parekattil      |
| 15 min                    | 6 - Always Do – <b>Examine the vulva</b><br>Never Miss – <b>Endometriosis</b>                                                    | Jennifer Pollard     |
| 20 min                    | Facilitated Discussion, Q and A, Audience Cases                                                                                  | Audience and Faculty |
| 5 min                     | 7 - Tools for Practice                                                                                                           | Elise De             |

# Elise De MD

Always Do – Look Beyond IC  
Never Miss – Sacral Pathology

Professor of Urology, Ob Gyn, Neurology  
Medical Director  
Multidisciplinary Pelvic Health  
Albany Medical Center

[www.facingpelvicpain.org](http://www.facingpelvicpain.org)  
YouTube @facingpelvicpain



## Ken Peters, MD

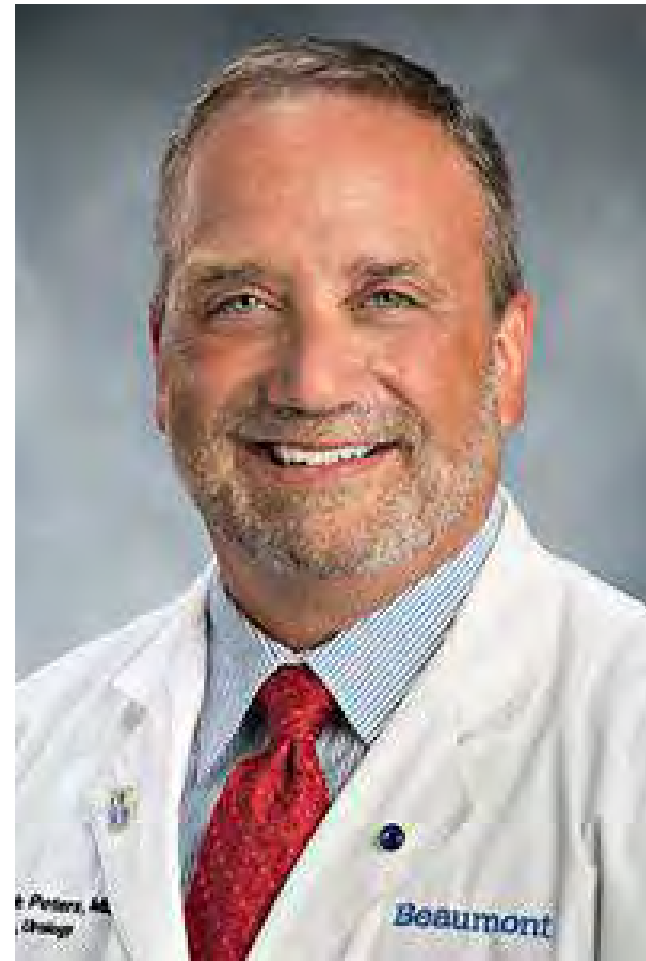
Always Do – Identify HTPFD  
Never Miss – Pudendal Neuralgia

### Corewell Health

Professor and Chairman of  
Urology,  
Oakland University William  
Beaumont School of Medicine,  
Chief of Urology, Beaumont Health  
Royal Oak, Michigan

### Disclosures:

Thermaquil, Inc: Consultant  
Urovant: Consultant  
Collamedix: Consultant  
Iota Bioscience: Consultant  
Coloplast: Consultant  
Juro Sciences Inc: Consultant  
Amber Therapeutics: Consultant  
Johnson & Johnson: Consultant



## **Brian Inouye MD**

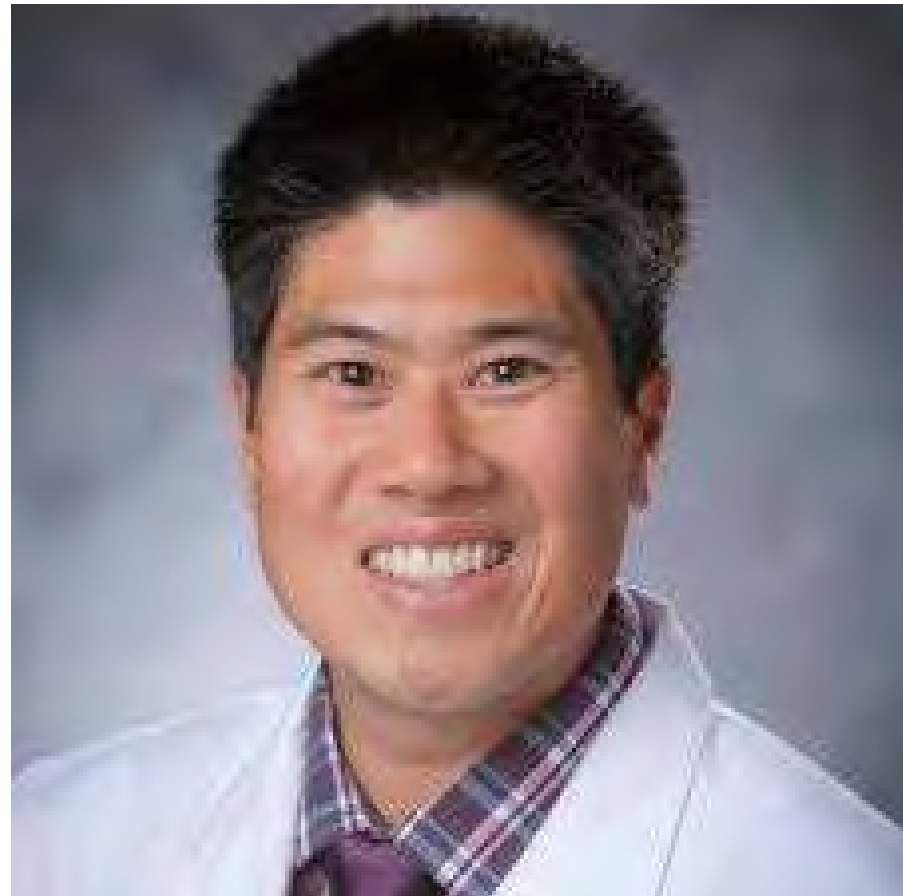
Always Do – Identify bladder-centric  
pain pre- cystectomy  
Never Miss – Pyocystis

Chair Young GURS Committee  
Assistant Professor Urology  
Assistant Program Director

Albany Medical Center, Albany  
New York

@BrianInouyeMD

Disclosures: Consultant for  
Laborie Optolume



## **Sijo Parekattil MD**

Always do – Use targeted  
therapies prior to excision  
Never miss - Upper tract cause  
of scrotal content pain

**Director, Avant Concierge  
Urology, Winter Garden, FL, USA**

**[www.avanturol.com](http://www.avanturol.com)**

**@Nuttdoc**

Disclosures: None



## Jennifer Pollard, M.D.

Always Do – Examine the vulva  
Never Miss – Endometriosis

Assistant Professor  
Department of  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
MIS, Sexual  
Pain and Health

Disclosures: None





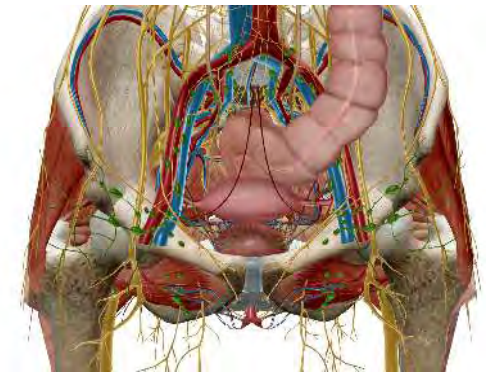
Treatment of Pelvic Pain depends on the:

**Causes of Pain in Pelvis and Reasons for Pelvic Pain**

| LOCATION of PELVIC PAIN SYMPTOMS                                                                                                                                   | POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS of CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN SYNDROME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vulvar pain</b><br>Vulva and pelvic burning, burning in pelvic area                                                                                             | Infection<br>Exposures (irritants)<br>Vulvar atrophy (low estrogen)<br>Low testosterone (can be caused by external hormones)<br>Dermatologic conditions (e.g., lichen sclerosis)<br>Neuropathy                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Introital pain</b><br>Entrance to vagina                                                                                                                        | Low testosterone<br>Friction from sexual activity or clothing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Urethral pain</b><br>Pain urinating                                                                                                                             | Vulvovaginal atrophy<br>Urethral caruncle<br>Friction<br>Tight external sphincter muscle or stricture (turbulence)<br>Skene's gland<br>Stone at ureterovesical junction or urethra diverticulum<br>Tumor<br>Infection ( <u>ureaplasma</u> /mycoplasma) or sexually transmitted infection<br>Recurrent urinary tract infections                |
| <b>Pelvic floor muscles</b><br>Heavy feeling in pelvic area, pelvic ache, pelvic pain from sitting, pelvic headache                                                | Dysfunctional voiding<br>Overactivity of muscles from pelvic strain, pelvic exercises or the <u>kegel</u> exercise                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Gynecological pain</b><br>Causes of pelvic pain in women, pain in pelvic female, symptoms of pelvic infection, sore pelvic area, pelvic discomfort, sore pelvis | Endometriosis symptoms (cramps in pelvis, pain in pelvis before period, pain in pelvis after period, extreme pelvic pain)<br>Endometritis<br>Adhesions in pelvis<br>Uterine fibroids<br>Ovarian venous abnormality<br>Ovarian cysts, torsion, or other growths<br>Ectopic pregnancy<br>Sexually transmitted infection, inflammation in pelvis |
| <b>Male organ pain</b>                                                                                                                                             | Prostatitis symptoms or epididymitis<br>Testis mass, torsion, or nerve pain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prostate pain, testis pain, groin pain, scrotum pain, pelvis pain men, pain in pelvis male                                                                                       | Ejaculatory duct or vas deferens obstruction<br><u>Psoriasis</u> Disease<br>Sexually transmitted infection (STI, STD)<br>Pelvic floor muscles, especially when prostatitis treatment has not been successful                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Bladder pain</b>                                                                                                                                                              | Interstitial cystitis<br>Dietary triggers<br>Bladder outlet obstruction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Gastrointestinal Pain</b><br>Painful bowel movement, stomach cramps, blood in stool, cramps, bloating                                                                         | Pelvic floor muscles: <u>levator ani</u> syndrome<br>Proctalgia fugax / chronic proctalgia<br>Unspecified functional anorectal pain<br>Constipation –right pelvic pain, lower left side pelvic pain<br>Anal Fissure<br>Hemorrhoids<br>Pruritis ani<br>Anal cancer<br>Paget's disease<br>Warts<br>Pelvic tumor<br>Diverticulitis<br>Appendicitis<br>Adhesions in pelvis<br>Hernia – pelvic pain sneezing<br>Inflammatory bowel disease<br>Irritable bowel syndrome – gas pain in pelvis |
| <b>Vascular pain in lower pelvis</b><br>Pelvis pain worse with standing                                                                                                          | Pelvic venous disorder, pelvic venous congestion syndrome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Bone pain, Joint Pain</b><br>Pelvic girdle pain, fractured pelvis symptoms, pelvic bone pain, pubic symphysis pain, pain in hips, pain in the pubic area, pelvic pain running | Back, knee, foot, or hip problem<br>Injury to nerves, bones, ligaments, or tendons<br>Inflammation of bone (osteitis or osteomyelitis)<br>Muscle deficit (myopathy)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Nerve pain</b><br>Burning pain in pelvis, burning sensation in pelvic area, pain that radiates down one leg, sharp pains in pelvic area                                       | Upper motor neuron syndrome (upper spine/brain nerves)<br>Spinal stenosis<br>Herniated disc<br>Multiple sclerosis<br>Stroke<br>Cerebral palsy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                | Lower motor neuron syndromes (lower spinal cord)<br>Cauda equina syndrome<br>Tethered cord syndrome<br><u>Tarlov</u> Cyst<br>Sacral plexus<br>Peripheral nerve problem<br>Pudendal neuropathy, pudendal neuralgia, or other nerve entrapment<br>Peripheral neuropathy or neuroinflammation |
| <b>Psychological</b>                                                           | Loss of health<br>Depression<br>Anxiety<br>History of sexual abuse/assault, PTSD<br>Poor emotional coping/communication<br>Personality disorders<br>Couple distress                                                                                                                        |
| <b>All-over pain</b><br>Pain all over the body, pain everywhere, constant pain | Fibromyalgia<br>Small fiber polyneuropathy<br>Diabetic neuropathy<br>Central sensitization<br>Neuroinflammatory disease (e.g. Lyme disease)<br>Rheumatologic disease<br>Vasculitis                                                                                                         |



# Differential Diagnosis of Pelvic Pain

[www.facingpelvicpain.org](http://www.facingpelvicpain.org)

# History Predicts Correct Diagnosis 70% of the time



The Lancet

Volume 250, Issue 6470, 30 August 1947, Pages 305-307



## Contributions of the History, Physical Examination, and Laboratory Investigation in Making Medical Diagnoses

MICHAEL C. PETERSON, MD, *Morgantown, West Virginia*; JOHN H. HOLBROOK, MD; DE VON HALES, MD; N. LEE SMITH, MD; and LARRY V. STAKER, MD, *Salt Lake City, Utah*

We report an attempt to quantitate the relative contributions of the history, physical examination, and laboratory investigation in making medical diagnoses. In this prospective study of 80 medical outpatients with new or previously undiagnosed conditions, internists were asked to list their differential diagnoses and to estimate their confidence in each diagnostic possibility after the history, after the physical examination, and after the laboratory investigation. In 61 patients (76%), the history led to the final diagnosis. The physical examination led to the diagnosis in 10 patients (12%), and the laboratory investigation led to the diagnosis in 9 patients (11%). The internists' confidence in the correct diagnosis increased from 7.1 on a scale of 1 to 10 after the history to 8.2 after the physical examination and 9.3 after the laboratory investigation. These data support the concept that most diagnoses are made from the medical history. The results of physical examination and the laboratory investigation led to fewer diagnoses, but they were instrumental in excluding certain diagnostic possibilities and in increasing the physicians' confidence in their diagnoses.

(Peterson MC, Holbrook JH, Hales D, Smith NL, Staker LV: Contributions of the history, physical examination, and laboratory investigation in making medical diagnoses. *West J Med* 1992 Feb; 156:163-165)

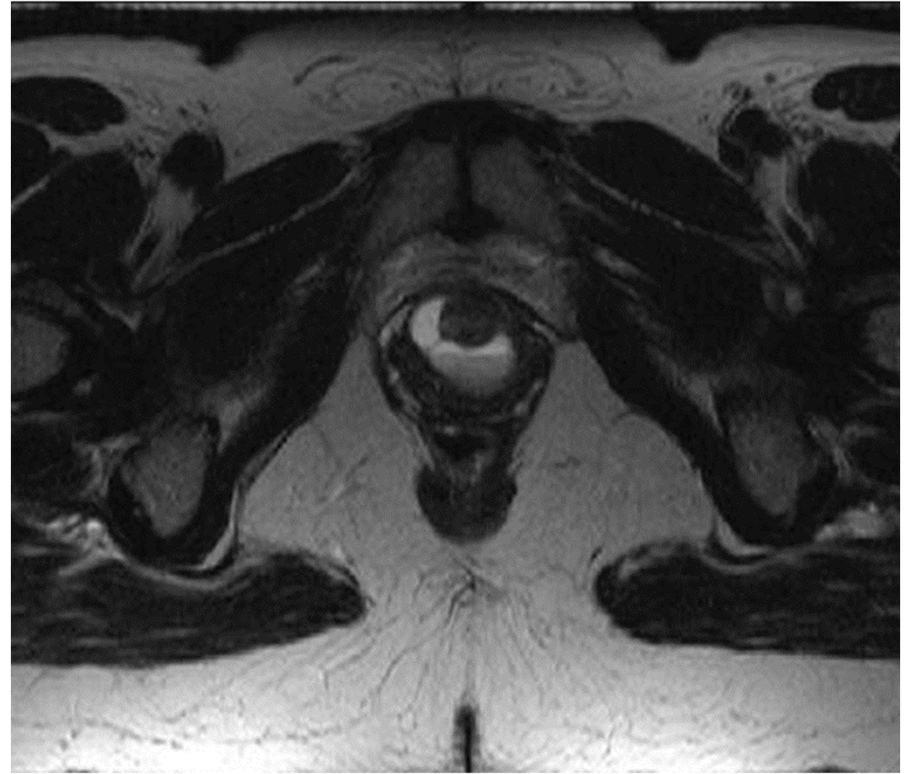
ORIGINAL ARTICLES

## TWO ESSAYS ON THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

Robert Platt M.D. Sheff., F.R.C.P. (PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY)



“Tell me the story of why you are here today”



# Review Records – Patient-Input Data and AI Help a Lot

## **TREATMENTS AND OUTCOME:**

- SI joint injections and ablations with temporary improvement up to one month
- Lumbar medial branch blocks and radiofrequency ablation without durable benefit
- Piriformis muscle release without benefit
- Spinal cord stimulator trial with partial coverage of back pain only
- Long term opioid therapy in past with good effect, discontinued
- Vaginal estrogen and estradiol patches without benefit for dyspareunia or urinary symptoms

## **SELECT MEDICATIONS (PRIOR AND CURRENT):**

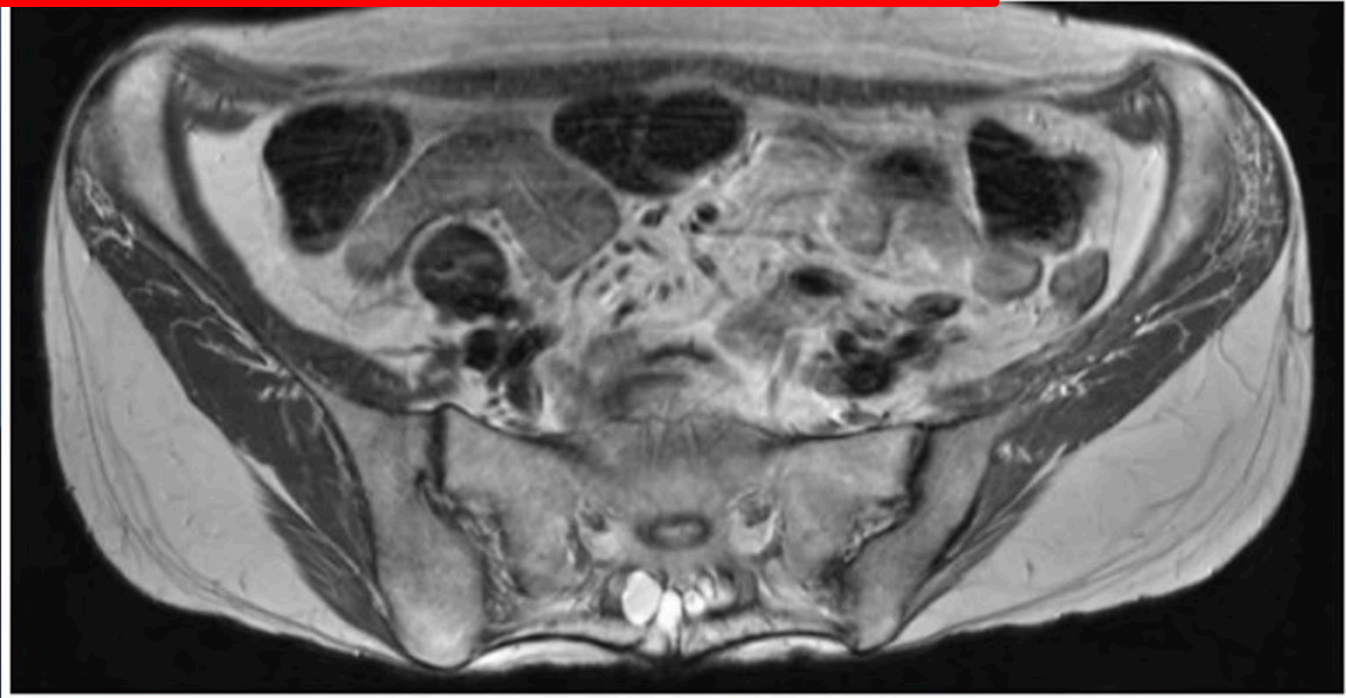
- Vibegron 75 mg daily initiated
- Estradiol vaginal therapy previously, discontinued
- Duloxetine for chronic pain and mood
- Baclofen
- Alprazolam
- Movantik
- Trazodone
- Rosuvastatin
- Varenicline
- Ondansetron

## **LABS / IMAGING / TESTING / RESULTS:**

- Urine cultures: 01/19/2023 negative; 11/21/2023 positive for E coli >100K; 02/07/2024 negative; 02/10/2025 negative; 11/04/2025 NuSwab negative
- Ureaplasma and mycoplasma negative 02/10/2025
- MRI pelvis 05/15/2025 showing right sided Tarlov cyst; otherwise symmetric lower spine
- MRI pelvis 5/2024 reported muscle strain and edema
- MRI lumbar spine 05/15/2026 read as within normal limits with multiple Tarlov cysts noted
- CT lumbar spine 06/2025 showing L5-S1 postsurgical changes and spondylolisthesis
- Labs 02/25/2026 notable for hyperlipidemia; otherwise normal liver function and CK

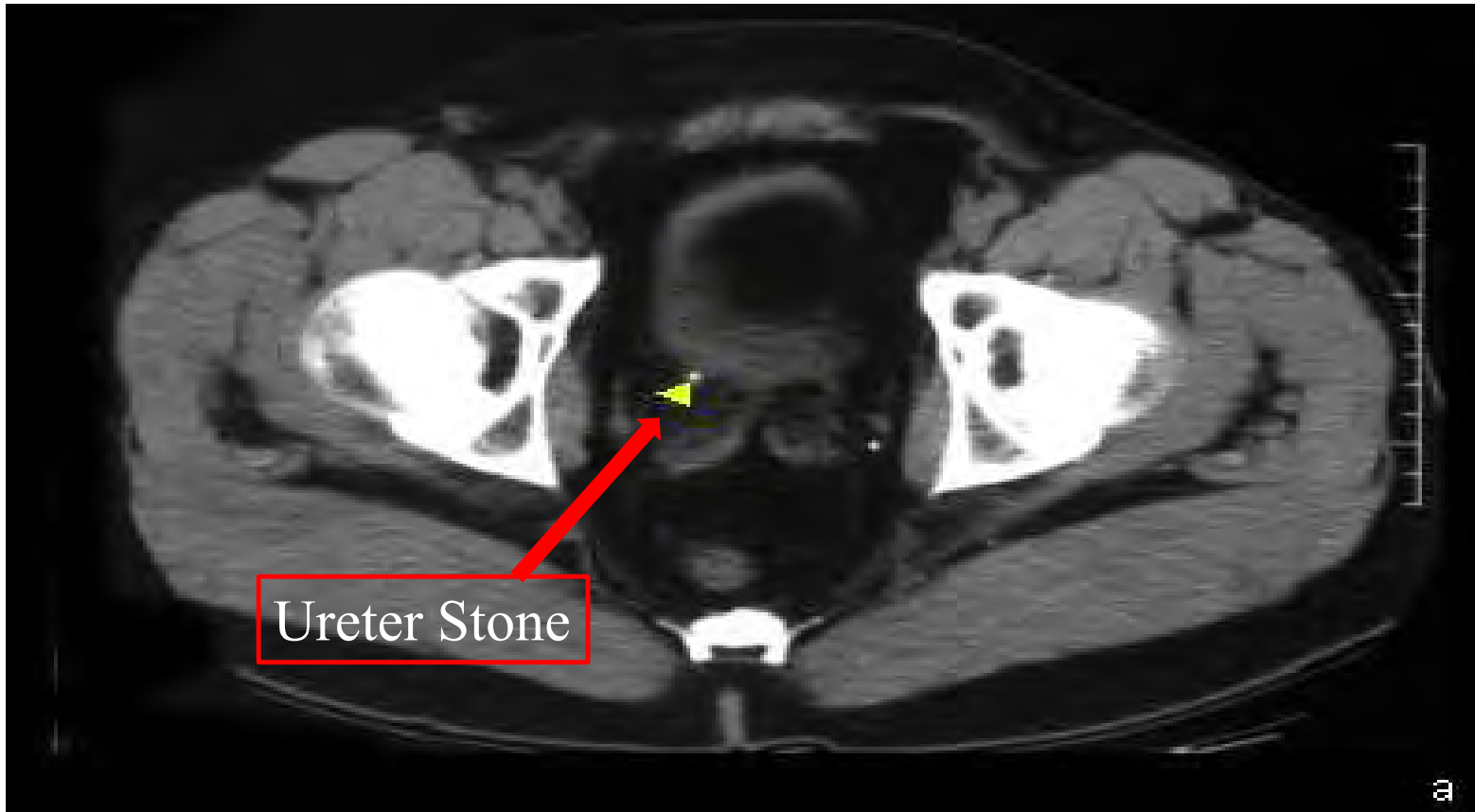
# Review Images

5/15/2023 MRI Lumbar Spine - read as WNL, but ++ Tarlov Cysts.



Her chronic pain history is significant for lumbar spondylolisthesis and prior lumbar fusion at L4-L5-S1 at ages 15 and 28. Pain worsened following a motor vehicle accident in May 2022, at which time symptoms began radiating down both legs, worse on the right. She has undergone SI joint injections, facet and caudal epidural injections, lumbar medial branch blocks and radiofrequency ablation, and piriformis muscle release, all with limited or no sustained benefit. A spinal cord stimulator trial using a Boston Scientific system in May 2023 improved back pain but did not address buttock or leg pain. She was told she has ischial tuberosity bursitis. Her primary limiting symptom at present is bilateral buttock pain, preventing sitting on hard surfaces, accompanied by numbness and weakness in the lower extremities. She previously used oxycodone for approximately 15 years with good effect; later opioid trials and fentanyl patch were poorly tolerated and ineffective. She is currently disabled due to pain and functional limitations.

## Acute Onset Lateralizing Pain



## Trauma Informed Care – 600 Pt Intake

“Is there a history of trauma/abuse you would like the team to be aware of?”

| Measure                    | Self-Reported Trauma History (mean (N=54)) | No Self-Reported Trauma History (mean (N=546)) | p-value |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Pelvic pain</b>         | 71%                                        | 42%                                            | <0.001  |
| <b>Autonomic sx score</b>  | 9.91 ± 5.4                                 | 4.0 ± 4.4                                      | <0.001  |
| <b>Neurological ROS</b>    | 4.4 ± 2.9                                  | 2.0 ± 2.4                                      | <0.001  |
| <b>PHQ-4</b>               | 2.2 ± 2.1                                  | 1.0 ± 1.6                                      | <0.001  |
| <b>AUA-QOL</b>             | 4.17 ± 1.85                                | 3.21 ± 2.19                                    | <0.001  |
| <b>Sexual satisfaction</b> | 3.41 (N=49)                                | 2.90 (N=354)                                   | 0.020   |
| <b>Orgasm intensity</b>    | 2.79 (N=28)                                | 2.49 (N=250)                                   | 0.260   |

*"Let me know what I should expect to feel, tell me when you're about to do something and give me the chance to be calm and check in with me on how it feels. Slow and gentle."*

*"Ideal preferred conditions: meet doctor while clothed prior to exam, provider describes all components of exam in advance, provider asks me before moving to next step of exam/procedure, option to stop if I am in too much pain, no other staff should take over the exam without my consent, plenty of lubricant, and very slow insertion/removal/movement."*

*"Please no one else in the room, and if there must be other people in the room, I'd prefer they either be [the same gender] or have their back turned to me please."*

*"I expect doctors to be present when in an appointment with me. If I am asked a question, I expect the doctor to be ... empathetic to the answer which may illicit tears."*

# Signs and Symptoms of a Traumatic Response

Rockville MD: SAMHSA 2014

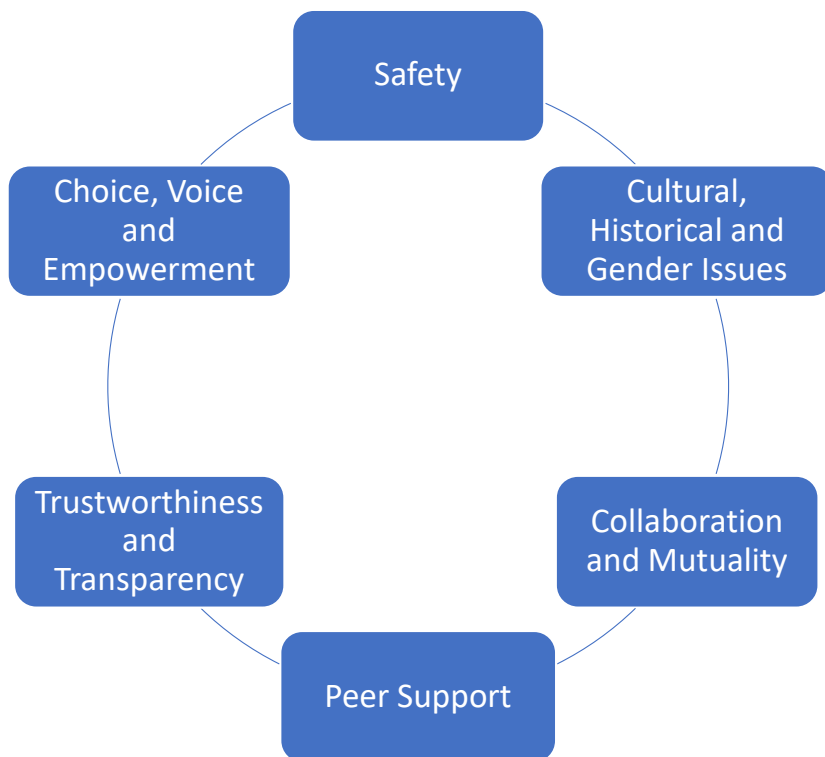
- Agitation
- Irritability, emotional swings
- Anxiety, depression, fear
- Outbursts of anger
- Easily startled by noise or touch
- Sudden sweating and/or heart palpitations
- Flashbacks – re-experiencing the trauma
- Difficulty concentrating
- Difficulty trusting
- Self-blame, guilt or shame
- Feelings of disconnection or numb



Courtesy Nelly Faghani BScPT, MCISc

# Principles of Trauma-Informed Approach

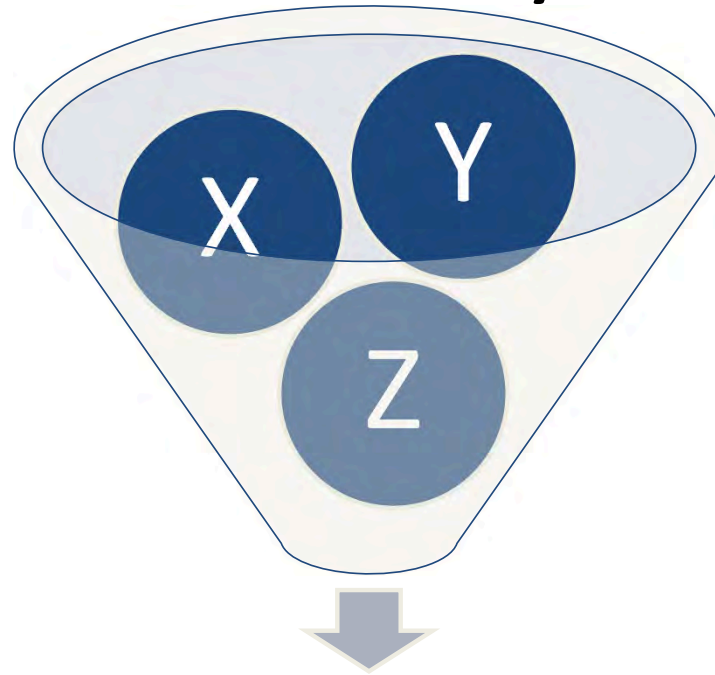
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Trauma and Justice Strategies 2014



- **Create safe space**
  - Build therapeutic alliance and trust
  - Validate their experience
  - Non nociceptive approach (don't be the threat)
- **Choice and control**
  - Get consent before you start
  - Remind patients they can withdraw consent
  - Provide alternative treatment options
- **Be careful with your language and responses**
  - Be inclusive (cultural, historical and gender issue)
  - Be aware of your body language and fascial expression
  - Be aware of the nocebo effect

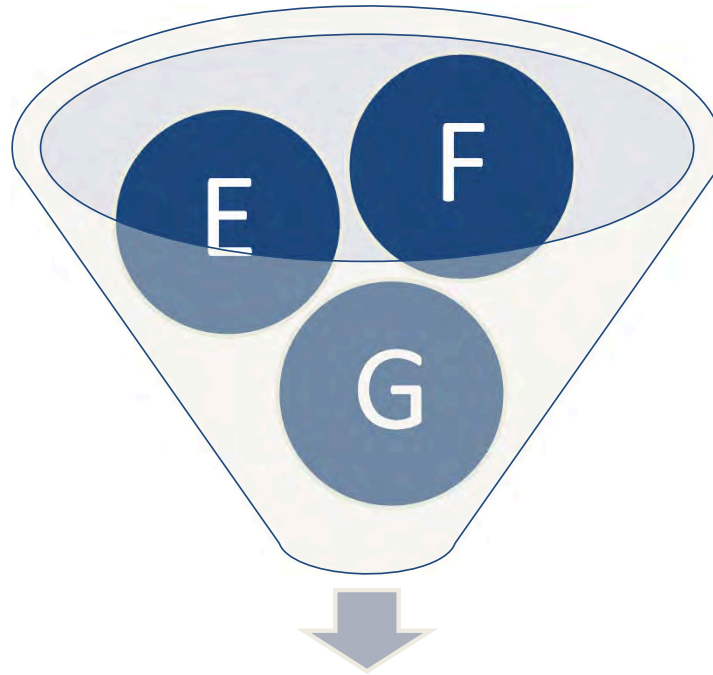
Courtesy Nelly Faghani BScPT, MCISc

# Case – Always Do



Always ABC

# Case – Never Miss



Never LMNOP

# 10 MUST-KNOWS FOR PELVIC PAIN- TO ALWAYS DO: EVALUATE FOR PELVIC FLOOR DYSFUNCTION AND NEVER MISS: PUDENDAL NEURALGIA

Kenneth M. Peters, MD

Professor and Chair of Urology

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital

# DISCLOSURES

Thermaquil, Inc: Consultant

Purdue Pharma: Consultant

Paxos Medical: Consultant

Coloplast: Consultant

Amber Therapeutics: Consultant

Minze Health: Consultant

Juro Sciences: Consultant

Celldex Therapeutics: Consultant

Janssen Research and Development: Consultant

# CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN



- 1 in 9 women have CPP
- Millions have been told they have IC
- Bladder often innocent bystander
- Pelvic floor dysfunction overlooked



- 10% of men suffer from CPP
- Most <50 yrs
- Told they have "prostatitis"
- Pelvic floor dysfunction overlooked

# BACKGROUND

- Chronic pelvic pain difficult to manage
- Many have been labeled with “IC” or Chronic Prostatitis
- Bladder or Prostate directed therapy has poor outcomes
- Many patients with CPP suffer from Pelvic Floor Dysfunction
- Pudendal neuropathy has been identified as a culprit in the development of CPP
- Sexual dysfunction is common
- Early life trauma can be risk factor in men and women

# ALWAYS DO: EVALUATE FOR PELVIC FLOOR DYSFUNCTION

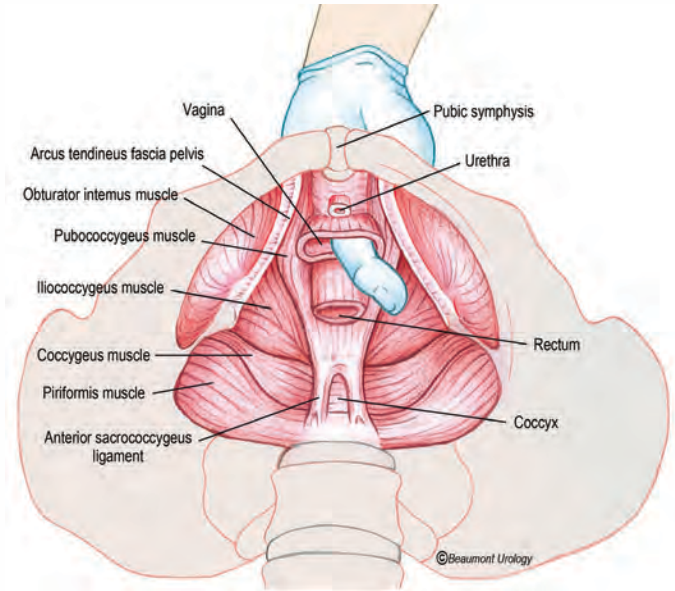
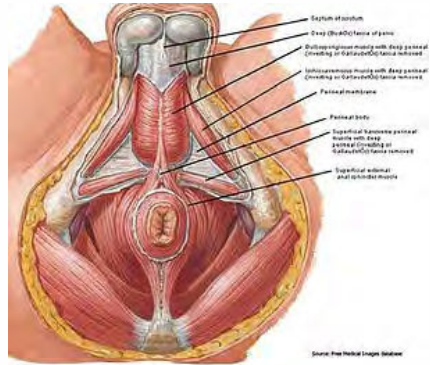
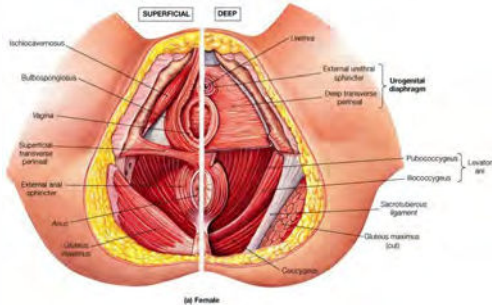


# ANATOMY

FEMALE PELVIS



MALE PELVIS

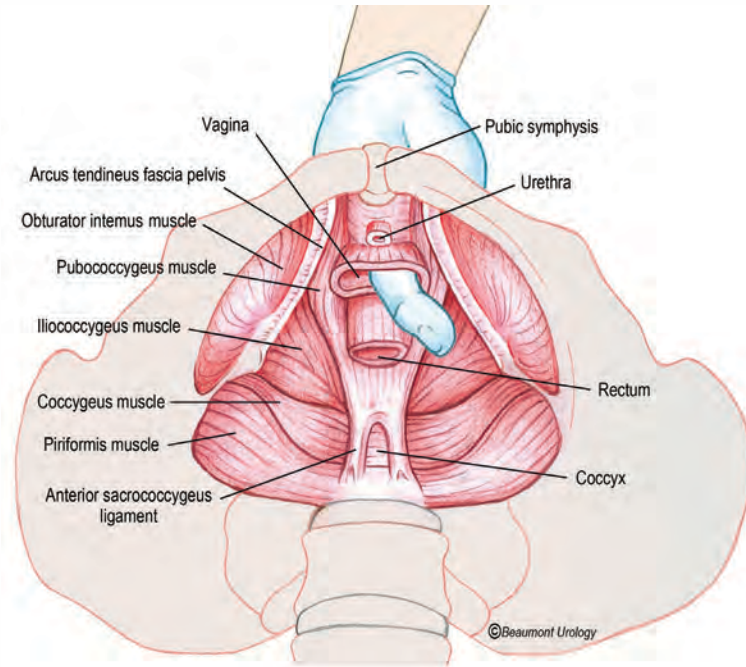


Always Do a Physical Exam

# IC & PELVIC FLOOR DYSFUNCTION

- Approximately 70%-90% of patients with IC have pelvic floor dysfunction<sup>1</sup>
- Levator ani muscle myalgia can be a source of chronic pelvic pain.

- 1. Peters et al. Urology. 2007 Jul;70(1):16-8



# EFFECT OF PELVIC FLOOR ON IC/PBS

Randomized Multicenter Pilot Trial Shows  
Benefit of Manual Physical Therapies in  
the Treatment of Chronic Pelvic Pain

MP FitzGerald,<sup>1</sup> RU Anderson,<sup>2</sup> CK Payne,<sup>2</sup> JPotts,<sup>3</sup> KM  
Peters,<sup>4</sup> JQ Clemens,<sup>5</sup> L Cen<sup>6</sup>, S Chuai<sup>6</sup>,  
JR Landis<sup>6</sup>

J Urol. 2009 Aug;182(2):570-80. Epub 2009 Jun 17.

# RESULTS

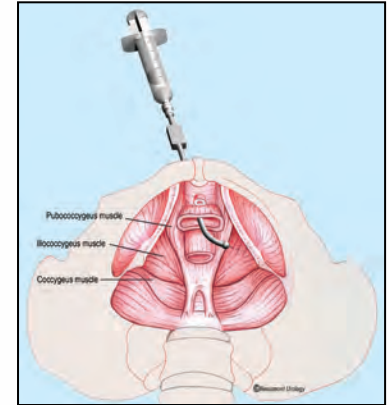
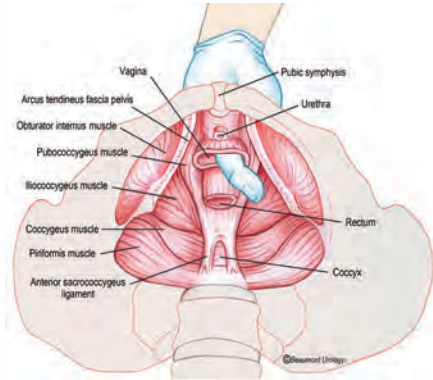
|                       | GTM     | MPT      | Total    |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Number Randomized     | 24      | 23       | 47       |
| <i>Total (p=0.03)</i> |         |          |          |
| Responders            | 5 (21%) | 13 (57%) | 18 (38%) |
|                       |         |          |          |

Similar findings in f/u study of 81 women: 59% PT vs 26% massage

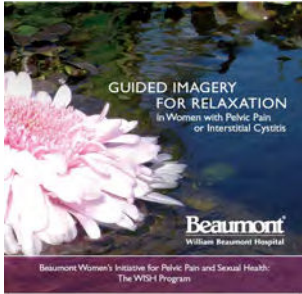
*FitzGerald, et al J Urol. 2012 Jun;187(6):2113.*



# PELVIC FLOOR DYSFUNCTION



# INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE



- Pain Psychology
- Guided Imagery
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Stress Reduction
- Increase water intake (dilute the urine)
- Dietary modifications
- Yoga/meditation
- Medical massage
- Acupuncture
- Reiki Therapy



Guided Imagery

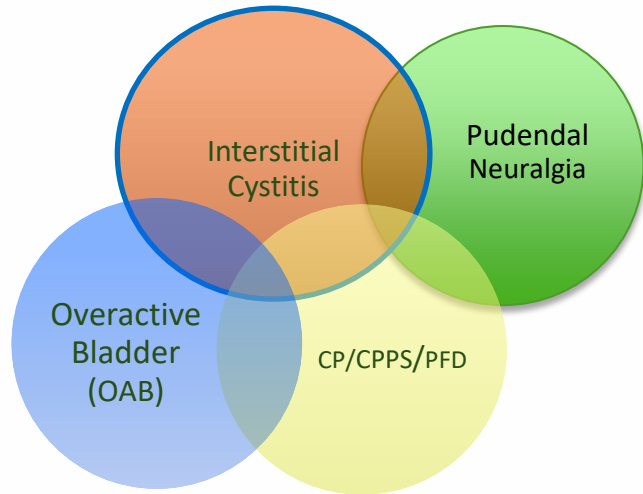
William Beaumont  
University Hospital

# DON'T MISS: PUDENDAL NEURALGIA



# IC, OAB, PUDENDAL NEURALGIA, CPP/PFD

Key difference between OAB and IC is **PAIN**,  
but pain does not equal IC!

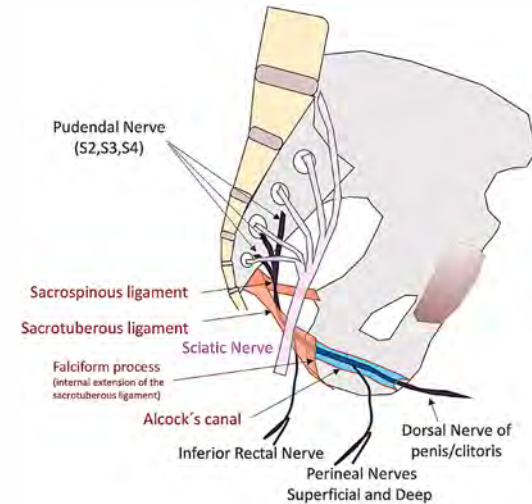
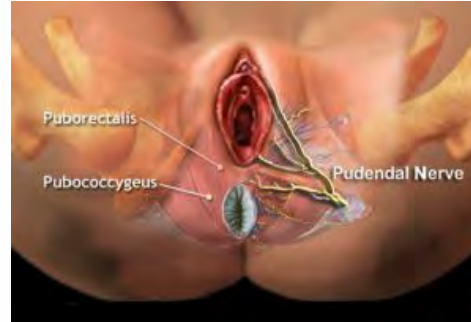


- They share some of the same symptoms
  - Urgency
  - Frequency
  - Nocturia
  - Painful sex
- Pudendal neuralgia
  - Pain on sitting, relieved on standing, lying down, or sitting on a cutout cushion or toilet seat
  - Also, urinary symptoms

# PUDENDAL NEURALGIA

## NANTES Criteria:

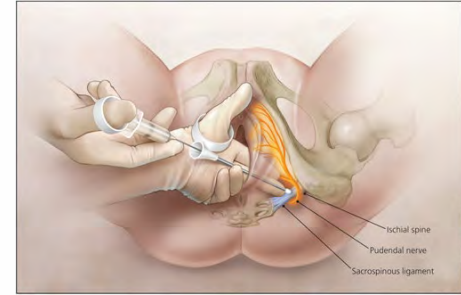
- (1) Pain in the anatomical territory of the pudendal nerve
- (2) Worsened by sitting.
- (3) The patient is not woken at night by the pain
- (4) No objective sensory loss on clinical examination.
- (5) Positive anesthetic



# PUDENDAL NEURALGIA

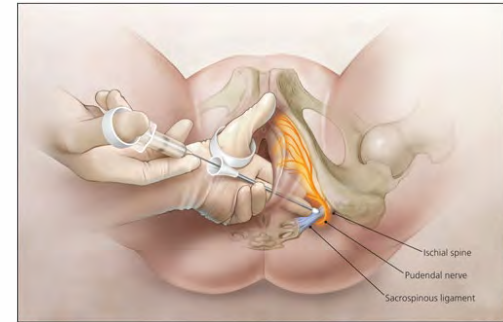
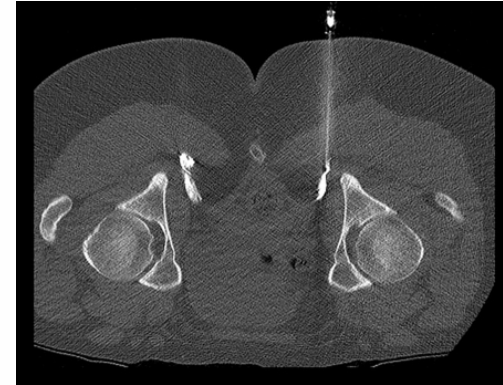
## Pudendal Neuralgia must be in differential diagnosis of pelvic pain

- Is patient standing when you enter the room?
- Pain worse with sitting, gone during sleep
- Careful history regarding distribution and character
- Triggers? Bike riding, pelvic injury, childbirth, fall
- Sexual dysfunction, voiding and bowel dysfunction?
- Pelvic floor pain on exam?
- Vulvar pain, scrotal pain, perineal pain, rectal pain?
- Pain at ischial spine with palpation

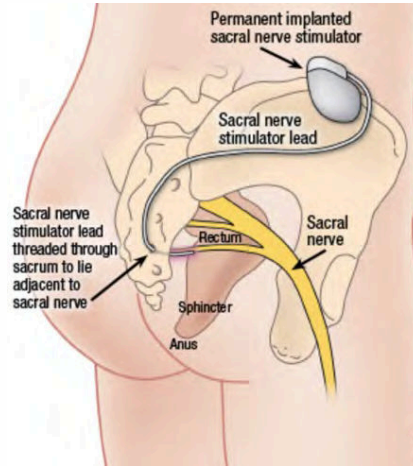
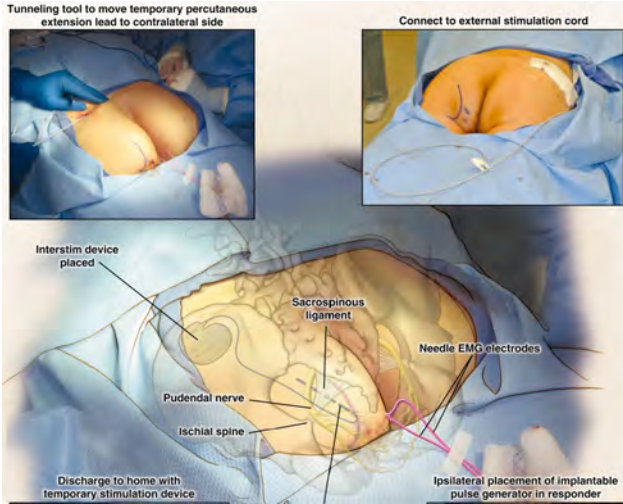


# PUDENDAL NEURALGIA TREATMENTS

- Behavioral changes- pudendal pads, avoid biking, prolonged sitting, pelvic stretching, yoga, stress reduction....
- Physical therapy, shockwave therapy
- Diagnostic/Therapeutic Pudendal Nerve Blocks
- RFA of Pudendal Nerve
- Pudendal Neuromodulation
- Pudendal nerve entrapment surgery  
(European Urology 47 (2005) 403–408)



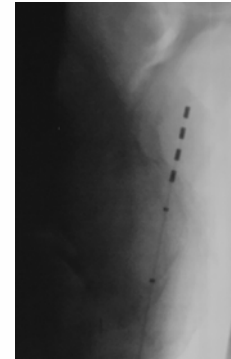
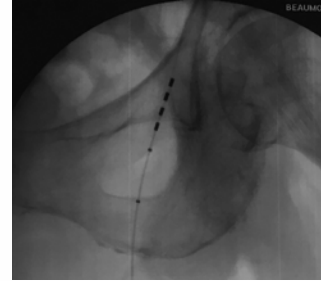
# NEUROMODULATION



# NEUROMODULATION

## Pudendal Neuromodulation

- Stimulation of the 3rd sacral nerve has been shown to be effective in treating voiding/bowel dysfunction and off-label use for pain
- The pudendal nerve is a distal branch of S2, S3, and S4
- The potential benefit of pudendal nerve stimulation is increased afferent stimulation through the sacral nerve roots
- Pudendal neuropathy is a known cause of severe pelvic pain, voiding and bowel dysfunction and sexual dysfunction
- Beaumont Urology Developed Pudendal Neuromodulation

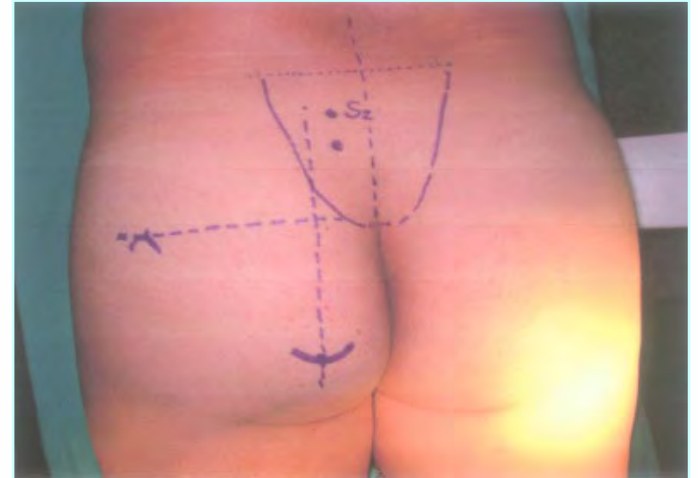


# NEUROMODULATION

## Locating the Pudendal Nerve



Peters KM et al. *Neurourol Urodyn.* 2005;24:643-647.



Spinelli M, et al. *Neurourol Urodyn.* 2005;24(4):305-9.

# NEUROMODULATION

## Sacral vs Pudendal Stimulation

- 30 subjects with refractory voiding dysfunction
- 48 years (26-70)
- Pudendal or sacral nerve stimulation in a blinded-randomized fashion, each for 7 days
- Successful placement of sacral and pudendal leads in all subjects
- Time to lead placement
  - Sacral: 25.9 min
  - Pudendal: 23.7 min (P=0.57)

Peters KM et al. *Neurourol Urodyn.* 2005;24:643-647

Ishio-rectal Pudendal  
Implant Video

SCAN QR CODE



# NEUROMODULATION

## SACRAL VS PUDENDAL NERVE STIMULATION

79% FOUND PUDENDAL BETTER THAN SACRAL  
(90% OF SACRAL FAILURES RESPOND TO PUDENDAL)

GRA:

Markedly-worse, Moderately-worse, Mildly-worse, Same, Mildly-improved, Moderately-improved, Markedly-improved

### Pudendal > Sacral

Pelvic pain (p=0.0024)

Frequency (p=0.007)

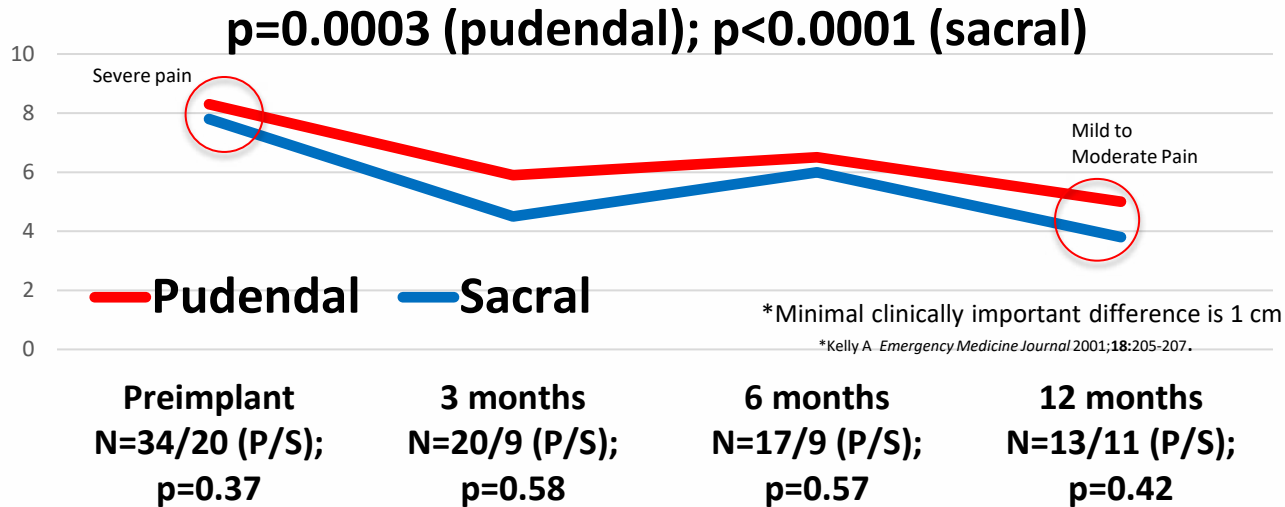
Urgency (p=0.005)

Bowel function (p=0.049)

Peters KM et al. *Neurourol Urodyn*. 2005;24:643-647

# NEUROMODULATION

## Change in Median Pelvic Pain Scores 10 cm VAS



## Initial experience using a novel nerve stimulator for the management of pudendal neuralgia

Ly Hoang Roberts MD<sup>1</sup> | Annah Vollstedt MD<sup>1</sup> | Joshua Volin BS<sup>1</sup> |  
 Teresa McCartney BSN, RN<sup>2</sup> | Kenneth M. Peters MD<sup>1</sup>

N=13

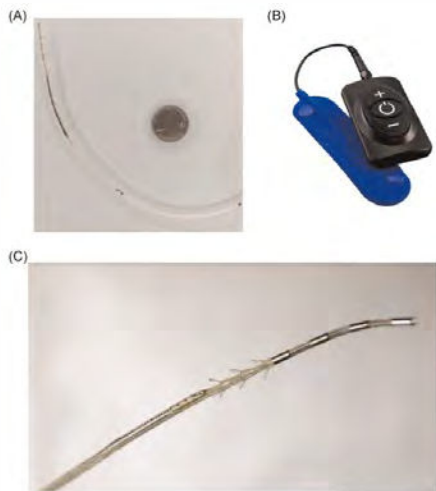


TABLE 3 Responses from follow up questionnaire administered via telephone call

| Follow up questionnaire                                                                |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Overall, how have your symptoms changed since undergoing the StimWave® Device Implant? | N = 7                 |
| 7 (markedly improved)                                                                  | 2                     |
| 6 (moderately improved)                                                                | 4                     |
| 5 (slightly improved)                                                                  | 1                     |
| 4 (no change)                                                                          | 0                     |
| 3 (slightly worse)                                                                     | 0                     |
| 2 (moderately worse)                                                                   | 0                     |
| 1 (markedly worse)                                                                     | 0                     |
| Permanent lead setting at last follow up                                               |                       |
| Pulse rate (Hz)                                                                        | 924.4 (779.5–1332.67) |
| Pulse width (ms)                                                                       | 105.7 (53.3–126.7)    |
| Power (mA)                                                                             | 0.67 (0.5–1.25)       |

Trans-gluteal Pudendal  
 Implant Video  
 SCAN QR CODE



10/13 >50% improvement in pain

TABLE 2 Operative findings and reported patient symptoms after trial and permanent lead implantation at post-op visit

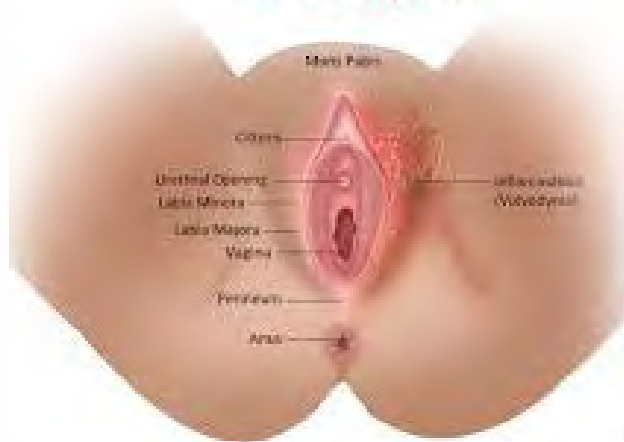
|                                                                | Trial lead procedure | Permanent lead procedure                                                                                                    | Follow up phone call                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Intraoperative</i>                                          | n = 11               | n = 9                                                                                                                       | n = 7                                                                                                      |
| Procedure time (min)                                           | 54                   | 57                                                                                                                          | N/A                                                                                                        |
| <i>Lead placement</i>                                          |                      |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                            |
| Unilateral                                                     | 5                    | 4                                                                                                                           | N/A                                                                                                        |
| Bilateral                                                      | 6                    | 5                                                                                                                           | N/A                                                                                                        |
| Complications                                                  | 0                    | 0                                                                                                                           | N/A                                                                                                        |
| <i>Postoperative</i>                                           |                      |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                            |
| Time from surgery to post-op visit/follow up phone call (days) | 7.16 (range: 6–11)   | 26.36 (range: 6–83)                                                                                                         | 287 (range: 22–799)                                                                                        |
| <i>Pain improvement</i>                                        |                      |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                            |
| 100%                                                           | 6                    | 1                                                                                                                           | 1                                                                                                          |
| 99%–50%                                                        | 1                    | 1                                                                                                                           | 3                                                                                                          |
| 75%–50%                                                        | 1                    | 1                                                                                                                           | 1                                                                                                          |
| 65%–50%                                                        | 2                    | 2                                                                                                                           | 2                                                                                                          |
| 49%–1%                                                         | 0                    | 3                                                                                                                           | 0                                                                                                          |
| 0%                                                             | 3                    | 1                                                                                                                           | 0                                                                                                          |
| <i>Complications</i>                                           |                      |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                            |
|                                                                | 0                    | 4 did not tolerate (n = 1), lack of adequate response (n = 1), lead migration (n = 1), incorrect usage of equipment (n = 1) | 5 Difficulty with external wearable antennae assembly (n = 2), lead migration (n = 2), broken wire (n = 1) |

Note: Pain improvement at time of follow up phone call since permanent lead implantation.

# NEUROMODULATION

## OTHER POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF NEUROMODULATION

### Vulvodynia

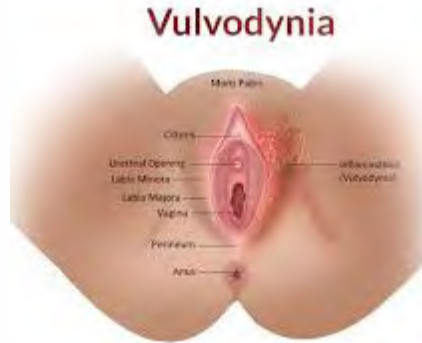


### Post-Mesh Pain



# NEUROMODULATION

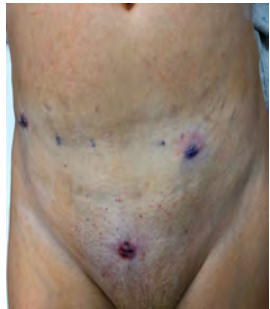
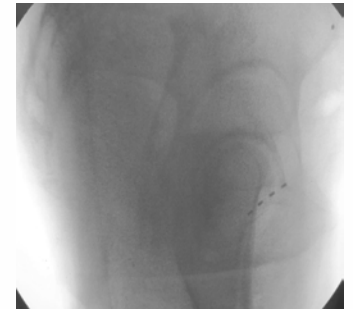
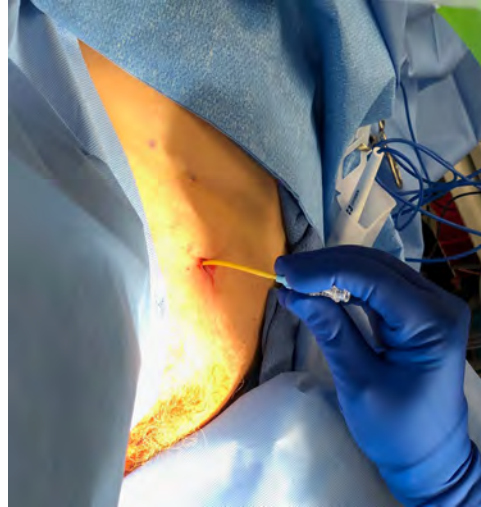
## PERIPHERAL NERVE STIMULATION



Curonix PNS System

The Canadian Journal of Urology, 01 Feb 2022, 29(1):11032-11035

# NEUROMODULATION



95% resolution of pain

Urology, Volume 137, 2020, Pages 196-199

# NEUROMODULATION

## PERSISTENT GENITAL AROUSAL DISORDER

- Recently treated several woman with severe PGAD with pudendal stimulation
- Suffered for years, responded transiently to pudendal nerve blocks
- Chronically took multiple narcotics and antidepressants/day
- Remarkable improvement in symptoms were noted and were able to wean the majority off their medications

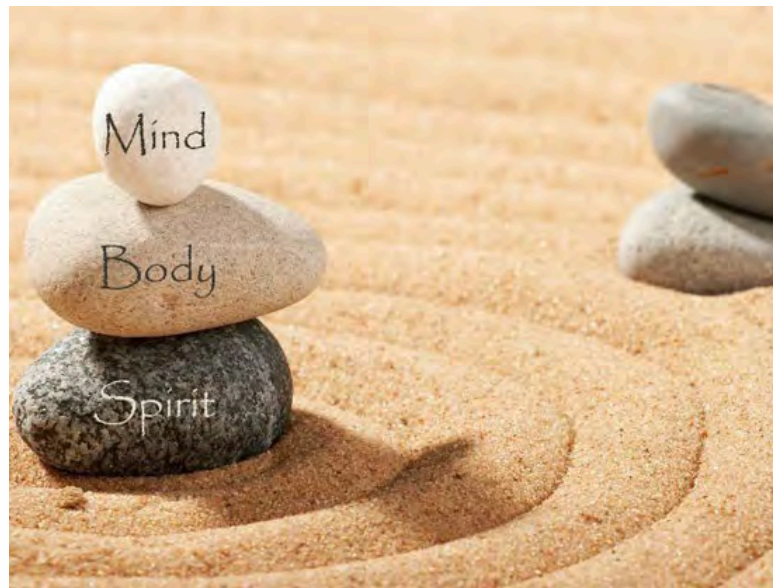
**Definition:** Persistent genital arousal disorder (PGAD), previously called **persistent sexual arousal** syndrome, is spontaneous, **persistent**, unwanted and uncontrollable **genital arousal** in the absence of **sexual** stimulation or **sexual** desire, and is typically not relieved by orgasm

Pudendal Neuromodulation as a Treatment for Persistent Genital Arousal Disorder—A Case Series  
Gaines, Natalie, MD<sup>†</sup>; Odom, Brian D., BS<sup>†</sup>; Killinger, Kim A., MSN<sup>††</sup>; Peters, Kenneth M., MD<sup>††</sup>  
Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery: [July/August 2018 - Volume 24 - Issue 4 - p e1–e5](#)

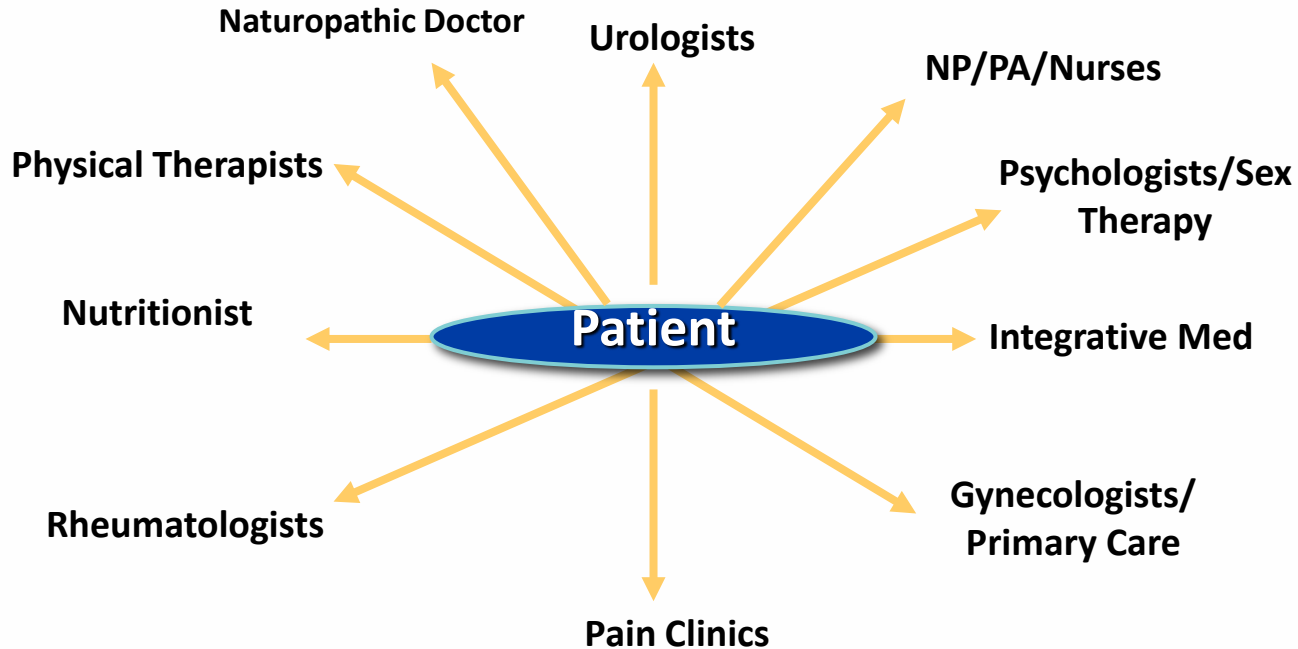


# WORDS OF WISDOM

- Need to think beyond our specialties
- Must evaluate the whole patient
- Prioritize problems
- Life experiences may impact patient symptoms
- Triggers must be identified and managed
- Provide hope, education and support
- Start simple and advance therapy



# A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH IS KEY TO SUCCESS



# Thank You





Always Do – Look Beyond IC  
Never Miss – Sacral Pathology

*AUA Course 013 IC*  
*Friday May 15, 2026*  
*1:30 PM – 3:30 PM*

Elise De MD  
Professor of Urology, Ob/Gyn, Neurology  
Medical Director  
Multidisciplinary Pelvic Health  
Albany Medical College



# Disclosures

Twitter: @Dr\_Elise\_De  
Instagram: elisede123  
Facebook: [elise.b.de](https://www.facebook.com/elise.b.de)  
Linked In: elise-de-8a535a180



**CLINICAL RESEARCH:** PI,  
IRONWOOD  
PHARMACEUTICALS



**CONSULTANT:** FLUME  
CATHETERS, NIDDK DSMB  
EPPIC2201



**STOCK:** ERYP, DOXIMITY



**INNOVATION:**  
[WWW.RESTORATION-  
MEDICINE.COM](http://WWW.RESTORATION-MEDICINE.COM)  
PELVIC ANSWERS LLC

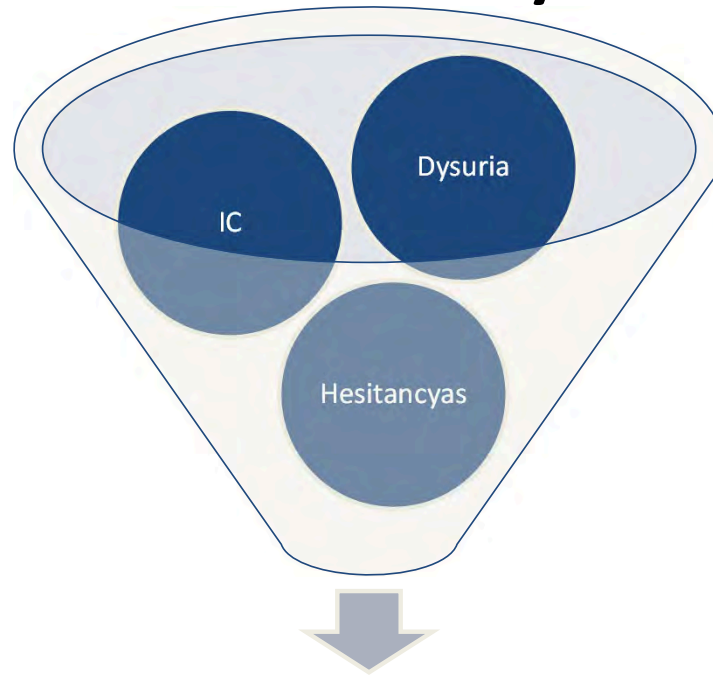


**WEBSITE:**  
[WWW.FACINGPELVICPAIN.  
ORG](http://WWW.FACINGPELVICPAIN.ORG)

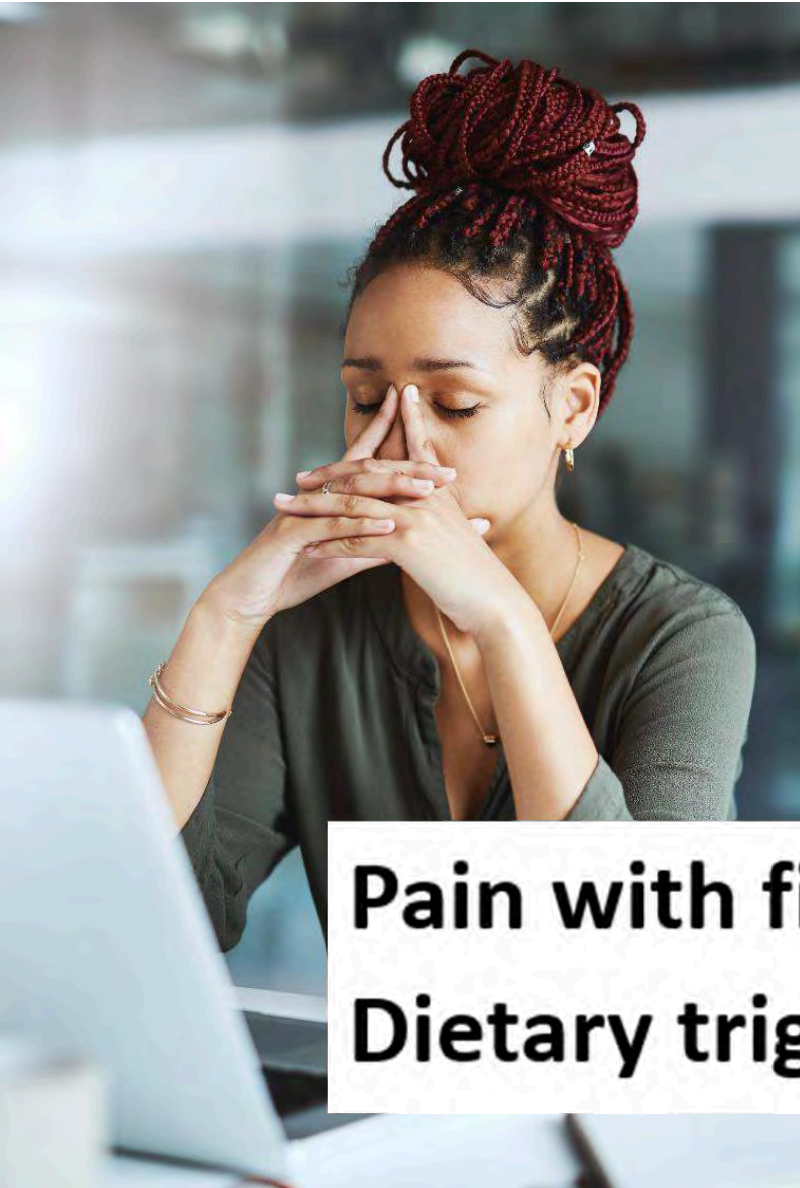


**YOUTUBE:**  
@FACINGPELVICPAIN

# Case – Always Do



Always Reevaluate Presenting Diagnosis of IC



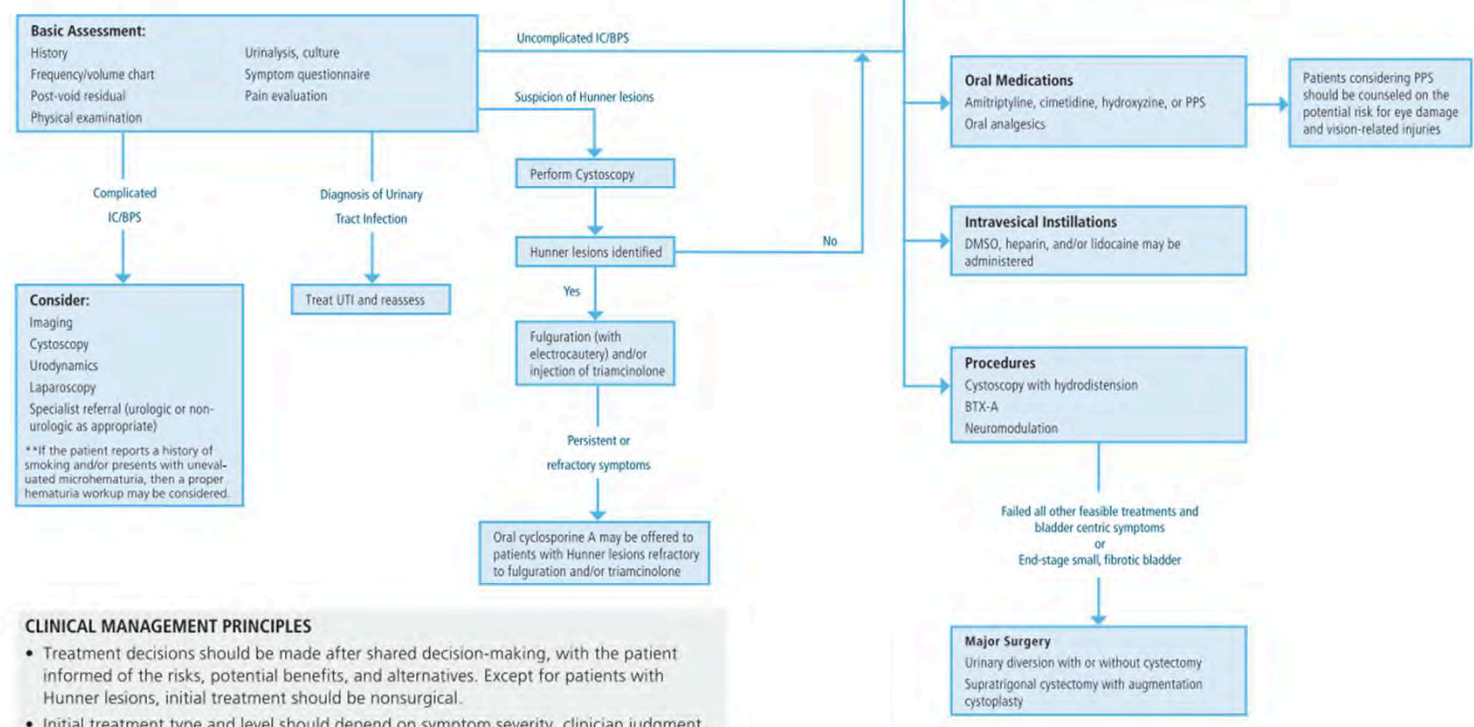
## Case: “History of Interstitial Cystitis” (IC/BPS)

---

- 32 year old female
  - HTN
  - GERD
  - Interstim, CCY
  - G2P1 Vaginal, 7lbs
- Severe constant urgency, frequency

**Pain with filling relieved by voiding**  
**Dietary triggers**

IC/BPS: An unpleasant sensation (pain, pressure, discomfort) perceived to be related to the urinary bladder, associated with lower urinary tract symptoms of more than six weeks duration, in the absence of infection or other identifiable causes.



- CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**
- Treatment decisions should be made after shared decision-making, with the patient informed of the risks, potential benefits, and alternatives. Except for patients with Hunner lesions, initial treatment should be nonsurgical.
  - Initial treatment type and level should depend on symptom severity, clinician judgment, and patient preferences.
  - Multiple, simultaneous treatments may be considered if it is in the best interests of the patient.
  - Ineffective treatments should be stopped.
  - Pain management should be continually assessed for effectiveness.
  - The IC/BPS diagnosis should be reconsidered if no improvement occurs after multiple treatment approaches.

BTX-A: Onabotulinumtoxin A; DMSO: Dimethylsulfoxide; IC/BPS: Interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome; PPS: Pentosan polysulfate; UTI: Urinary tract infection  
 The evidence supporting the use of Neuromodulation, Cyclosporine A and BTX-A for IC/BPS is limited by many factors including study quality, small sample sizes, and lack of durable follow up. None of these three therapies have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for this indication. The panel believes that none of these interventions can be recommended for generalized use for this disorder, but rather should be limited to practitioners with experience managing this syndrome and willingness to provide long term care of these patients post intervention.  
 Copyright © 2022 American Urological Association Education and Research, Inc.

**Figure. IC/BPS Diagnosis and Treatment Algorithm.**



**Consider:**

Imaging

Cystoscopy

Urodynamics

Laparoscopy

Specialist referral (urologic or non-urologic as appropriate)

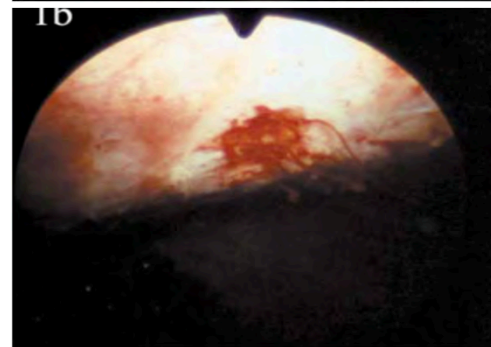
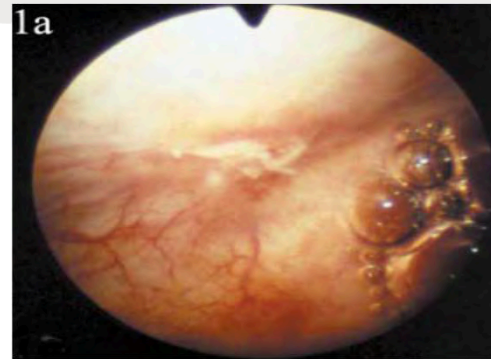
\*\*If the patient reports a history of smoking and/or presents with unevaluated microhematuria, then a proper hematuria workup may be considered.

# Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome Glomerulations and Hunner's Lesion



Anesthetic Capacity < 350 cc suspicious for IC

Campbell's Urology



Hunner's Lesion (Pecker Et Al 2000)

# Reevaluation of Interstitial Cystitis - 69% NOT IC/PBS

O. Ilaka, R. Vancavage, S. Patel, S. Dharia, D. Pettijohn, Elise De

| <b>Confirmed Diagnoses of IC/BPS = 16</b>                                                                      | <b>Number (n) and Percentage of patients</b>                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Interstitial cystitis remains most likely diagnosis                                                            | 16/51 (31%) (of these 4, 25% with confirmed Hunner's lesions)                                |
| <b>Confirmed Alternate Diagnoses = 35</b>                                                                      | <b>Number (n) and Percentage of patients</b>                                                 |
| NOT IC/BPS                                                                                                     | 35/51 (69%)                                                                                  |
| Small fiber neuropathy with autonomic dysfunction of the bladder                                               | 11/35 (31%)                                                                                  |
| Large fiber neuropathy                                                                                         | 7/35 (20%), including 2 with MS, 2 with cervical spine stenosis, 3 with severe bilateral VUR |
| Bladder neck obstruction                                                                                       | 7 (20%), including 3 with MTHFR mutation                                                     |
| Tarlov Cyst                                                                                                    | 2/35 (6%)                                                                                    |
| High tone levators with dysfunctional voiding and pelvic floor tension myalgia, resolved with physical therapy | 2/35 (6%)                                                                                    |
| Post-chemo neuropathy                                                                                          | 1/35 (3%)                                                                                    |
| Severe lumbar spinal stenosis with underactive bladder                                                         | 1/35 (3%)                                                                                    |
| 5 mm stone in distal ureter                                                                                    | 1/35 (3%)                                                                                    |
| Prostatic obstruction                                                                                          | 1/35 (3%)                                                                                    |

# Reevaluation of Interstitial Cystitis - 69% NOT IC/PBS

O. Ilaka, R. Vancavage, S. Patel, S. Dharia, D. Pettijohn, Elise De

|                                                                  |                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NOT IC/BPS                                                       | 35/51 (69%)                                                                                  |
| Small fiber neuropathy with autonomic dysfunction of the bladder | 11/35 (31%)                                                                                  |
| Large fiber neuropathy                                           | 7/35 (20%), including 2 with MS, 2 with cervical spine stenosis, 3 with severe bilateral VUR |
| Bladder neck obstruction                                         | 7 (20%), including 3 with MTHFR mutation                                                     |
| Tarlov Cyst                                                      | 2/35 (6%)                                                                                    |
| 5 mm stone in distal ureter                                      | 1/35 (3%)                                                                                    |
| Prostatic obstruction                                            | 1/35 (3%)                                                                                    |



Case: “History of Interstitial Cystitis”  
(IC/BPS)

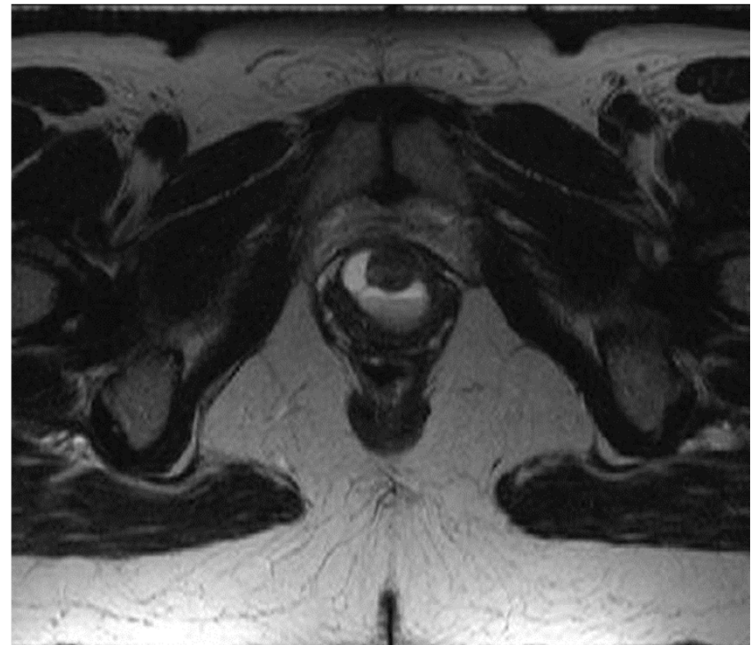
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***Post Void Dribbling***  
***Recurrent UTI***  
***Occasional Dysuria***



## Urethral Diverticulum

- Post Void Dribbling
- Pyuria/UTI
- Dyspareunia
- Cystic Exam
- Expressible fluid/ pus





## Case: “History of Interstitial Cystitis” (IC/BPS)

---

- 32 year old female
  - Headaches
  - GERD
  - No PSH
  - G2P1 Vaginal, 7lbs

**Hesitancy, intermittency, dysuria**

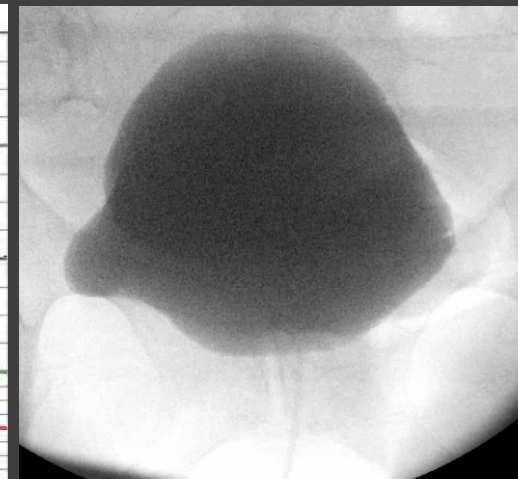
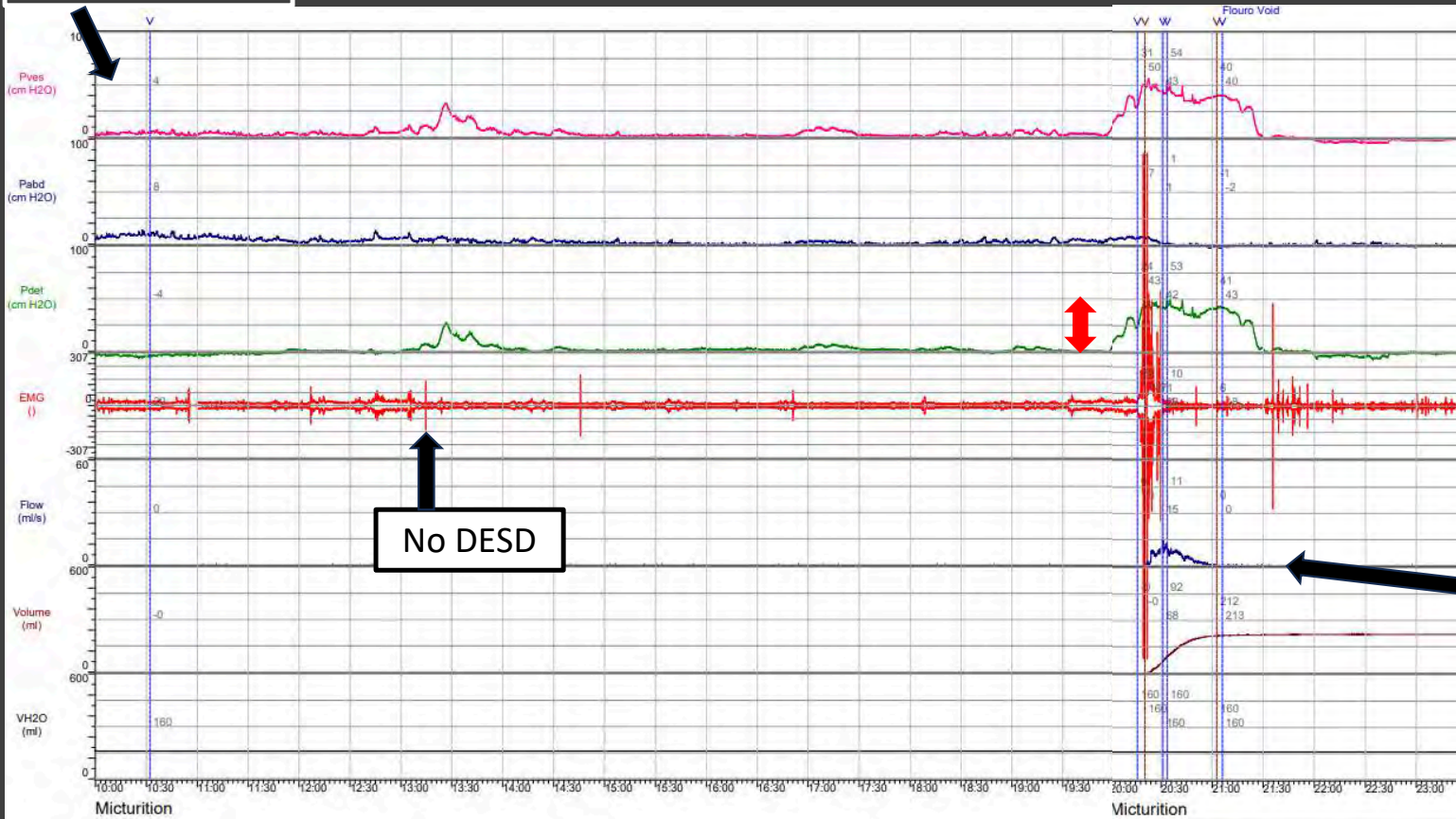
**PT unsuccessful**

**Botulinum toxin / anticholinergics made her worse**



# Case – “IC”, Hesitancy, Dysuria, “UTIs”

Permissive Void



Severe Urethral Pain with Void  
Bladder Neck Obstruction

# **Onabotulinumtoxin A to Bladder Neck**

## **Minimally Invasive Treatment for Bladder Neck Obstruction**

**Rebecca A. Takele, DO; Elise J.B. De, MD, FACS**

**Albany Medical Center, Albany, New York**



Music: <https://soundcloud.com/ashamaluevmusic/inspirational-corporate-ambient>

# Patient Reported Outcomes Due to Bladder Neck Obstruction in Women Treated With Botulinum Toxin A Injection

Darrel Bibicheff<sup>1</sup> | Brittany Lee Roberts<sup>2</sup> | Dyer Pettijohn<sup>3</sup> | Priscilla Rodriguez<sup>4</sup> | Jessmehar Walia<sup>5</sup> | Elise J. B. De<sup>6</sup>

**TABLE 2** | Global response assessment and visual analogue scale.

| Reported improvement of symptoms on GRA                                  | Number of participants (%) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Markedly Improved                                                        | 6 (33%)                    |
| Moderately Improved                                                      | 6 (33%)                    |
| Slightly Improved                                                        | 2 (11%)                    |
| No Change                                                                | 1 (6%)                     |
| Slightly Worse                                                           | 0                          |
| Moderately Worse                                                         | 0                          |
| Markedly Worse                                                           | 2 (11%)                    |
| Questionnaire not Answered                                               | 1 (6%)                     |
| <b>Reported Temporary Worsening of Symptoms Post Procedure ("Flare")</b> |                            |
| Yes                                                                      | 6 (35%)                    |
| No                                                                       | 11 (65%)                   |
| <b>Visual Analogue Scale</b>                                             |                            |
| Average Score                                                            |                            |
| Very Harmful (-10) to Very Helpful (10)                                  |                            |
| Degree of Treatment Success All Comers (N = 17)                          | 5.3                        |
| Degree of Treatment Success in Improved Patients (N = 14)                | 8.3                        |

**TABLE 3** | Patient reported symptom improvement.

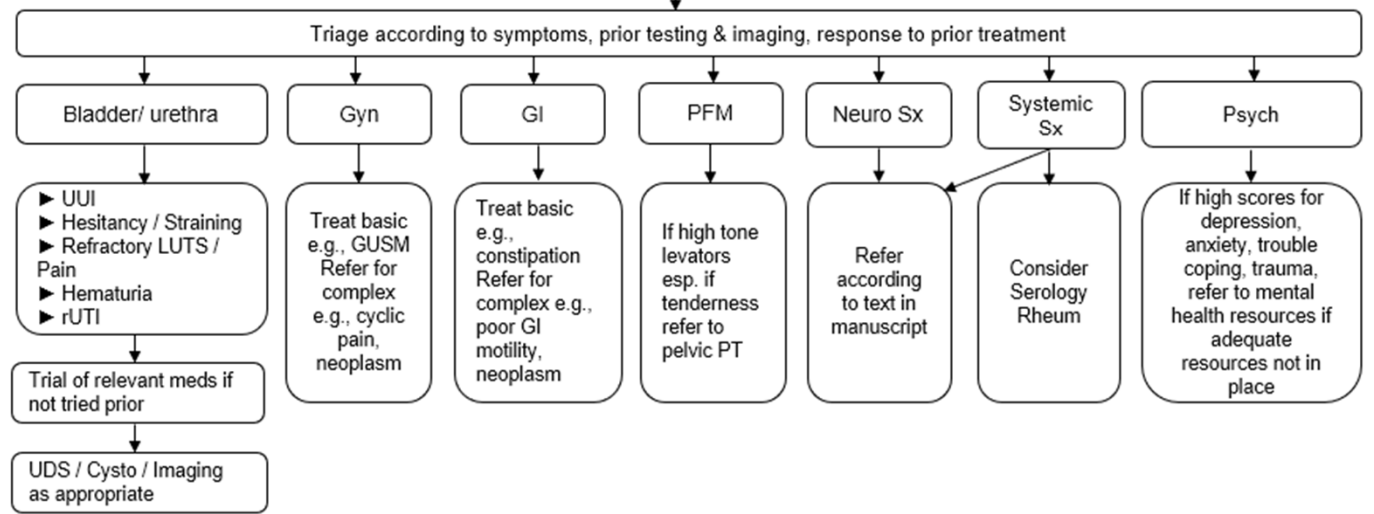
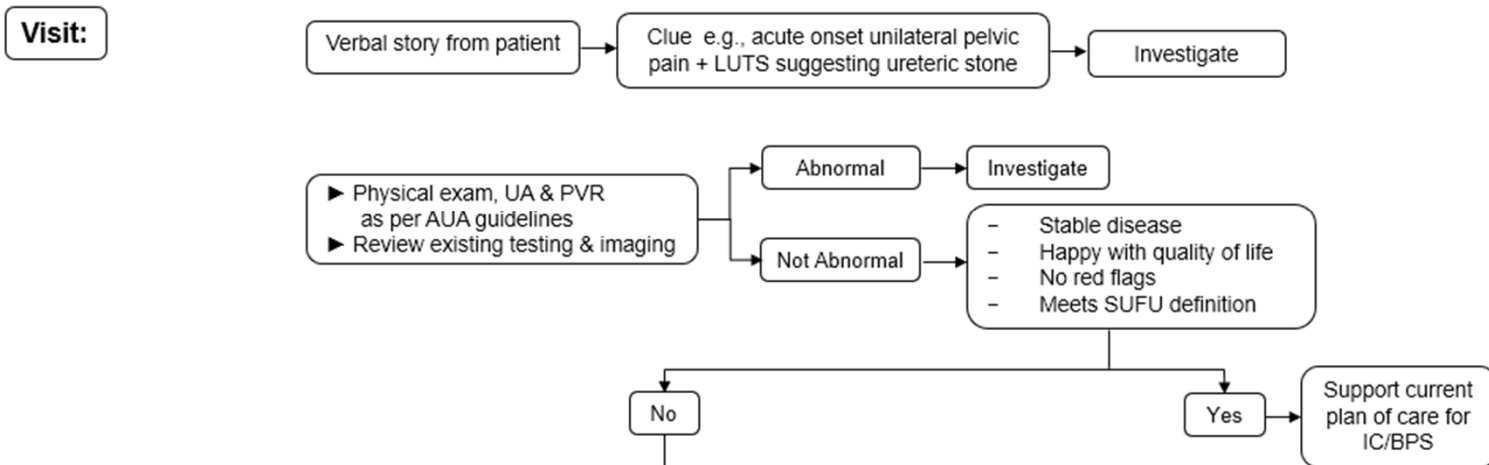
| Symptoms which improved                     | # participants out of 17 (%) |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Feeling of Incomplete Emptying              | 11 (65%)                     |
| Difficulty Starting Stream                  | 11 (65%)                     |
| Urethral Burning                            | 10 (59%)                     |
| Pelvic Pain                                 | 9 (53%)                      |
| Pain with Urination                         | 9 (53%)                      |
| Frequency                                   | 8 (47%)                      |
| Urgency                                     | 7 (41%)                      |
| Intermittent Stream                         | 1 (6%)                       |
| Lower Abdominal Pain                        | 1 (6%)                       |
| Bladder Sensitivity                         | 1 (6%)                       |
| Decreased Urinary Tract Infection Frequency | 1 (6%)                       |

**TABLE 5** | Concurrent procedures in 17 responders with reported improvement or worsening by VAS referable separately to that procedure in the patient's perception.

| Site                        | Number of participants | Mean VAS (-10, very harmful, to +10, very helpful) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Pelvic Floor Muscles        | 10 (59%)               | 6                                                  |
| External Urethral Sphincter | 1 (6%)                 | 9                                                  |
| Bladder Detrusor Muscle     | 2 (12%)                | 8                                                  |
| Vulva                       | 3 (18%)                | 10                                                 |

# Approach to Patients Labelled with IC

- Predocumentation:**
- ▶ Comprehensive intake
  - Multidisciplinary symptom screening & review of symptoms
  - Catalogue of prior testing
  - Catalogue of prior trials of therapy



| <b>Vulvar / Vaginal Treatments</b>                 | <b>Tried?</b> | <b>Relief?</b> | <b>Still Using?</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Avoidance of Irritants (select toilet paper, soap) |               |                |                     |

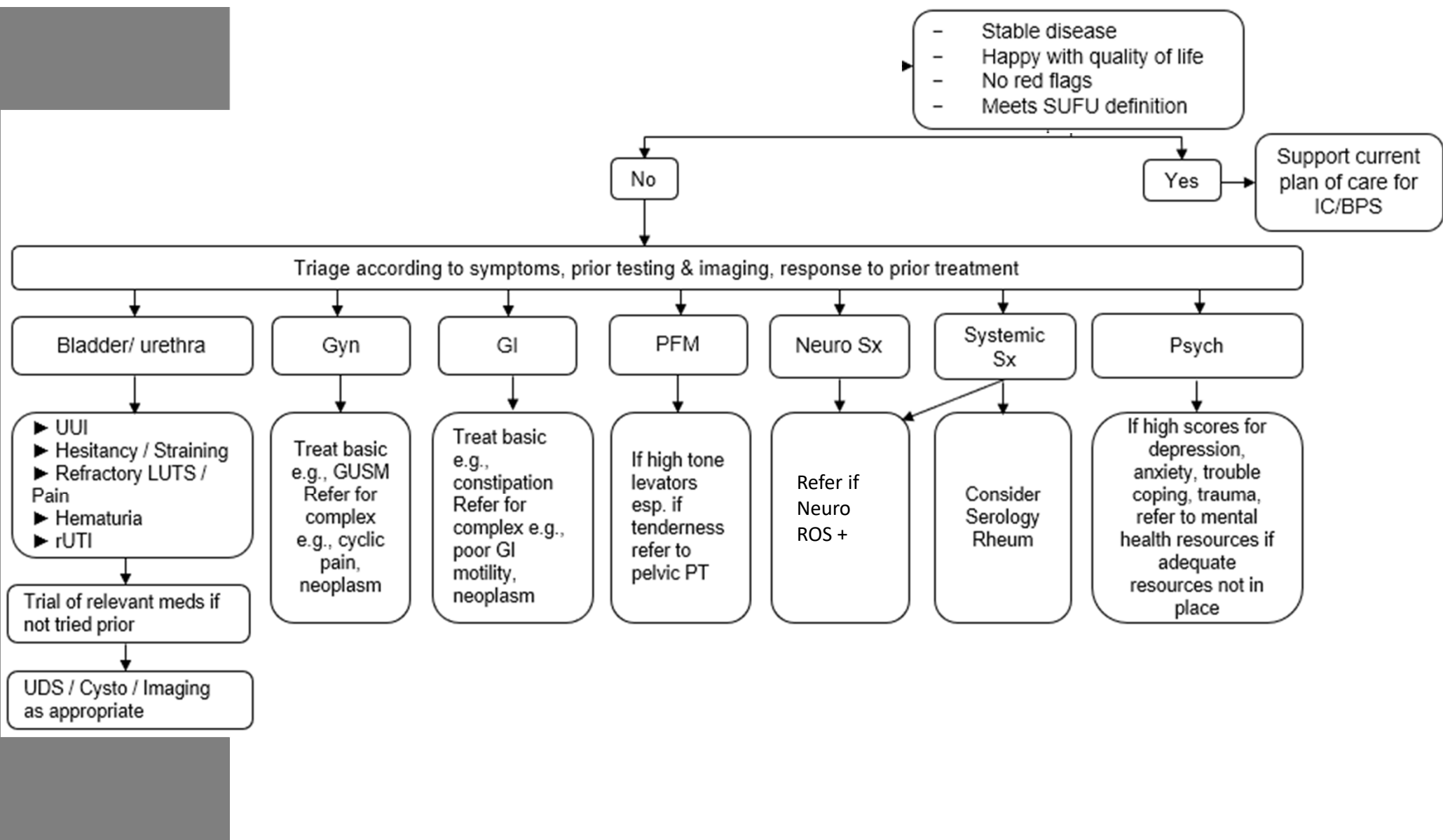
# www.facingpelvicpain.org

## The Treatment Map

| <input type="checkbox"/> Steroid (clobetasol, hydrocortisone)     |               |                |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diazepam (Valium®) vaginal Suppositories |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baclofen (Lioresel®)                     |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lidocaine                                |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gabapentin (Neurontin®)                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amitriptyline (Elavil®)                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tacrolimus (Prograf®)                    |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naltrexone - low dose (Vivitrol®)        |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douches                                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Inserts                            |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wipes                                    |               |                |                     |
| <b>Hormonal Medications</b>                                       | <b>Tried?</b> | <b>Relief?</b> | <b>Still Using?</b> |
| Vaginal estrogen cream, tablet or ring                            |               |                |                     |
| Estrogen / progesterone pills or patches                          |               |                |                     |
| Hormone-secreting intrauterine device (Mirena®, Liletta®)         |               |                |                     |

**Predocumentation:**

- ▶ Comprehensive intake
  - Multidisciplinary symptom screening & review of symptoms
  - Catalogue of prior testing
  - Catalogue of prior trials of therapy



- Stable disease
- Happy with quality of life
- No red flags
- Meets SUFU definition

No

Yes

Support current plan of care for IC/BPS

Triage according to symptoms, prior testing & imaging, response to prior treatment

Bladder/ urethra

- ▶ UUI
- ▶ Hesitancy / Straining
- ▶ Refractory LUTS / Pain
- ▶ Hematuria
- ▶ rUTI

Trial of relevant meds if not tried prior

UDS / Cysto / Imaging as appropriate

Gyn

Treat basic e.g., GUSM  
Refer for complex e.g., cyclic pain, neoplasm

GI

Treat basic e.g., constipation  
Refer for complex e.g., poor GI motility, neoplasm

PFM

If high tone levators esp. if tenderness refer to pelvic PT

Neuro Sx

Refer if Neuro ROS +

Systemic Sx

Consider Serology Rheum

Psych

If high scores for depression, anxiety, trouble coping, trauma, refer to mental health resources if adequate resources not in place



**Consider:**

Imaging

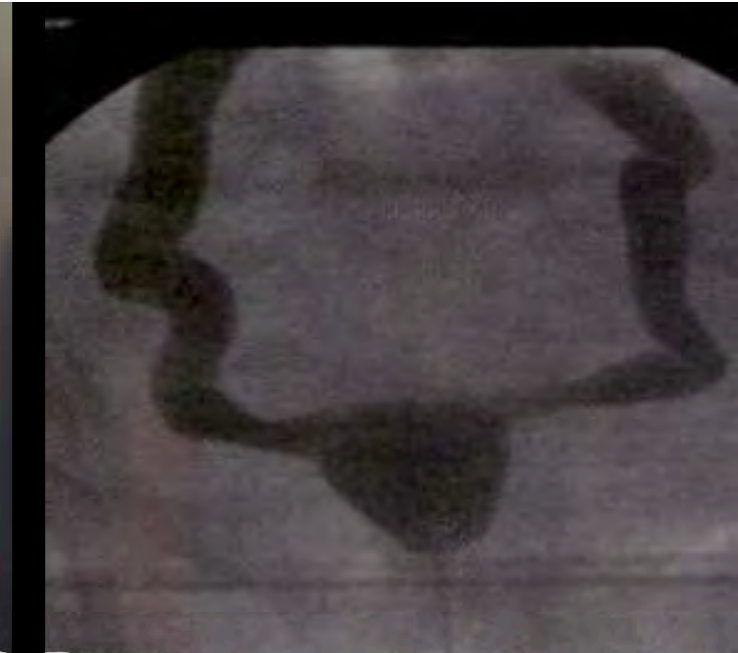
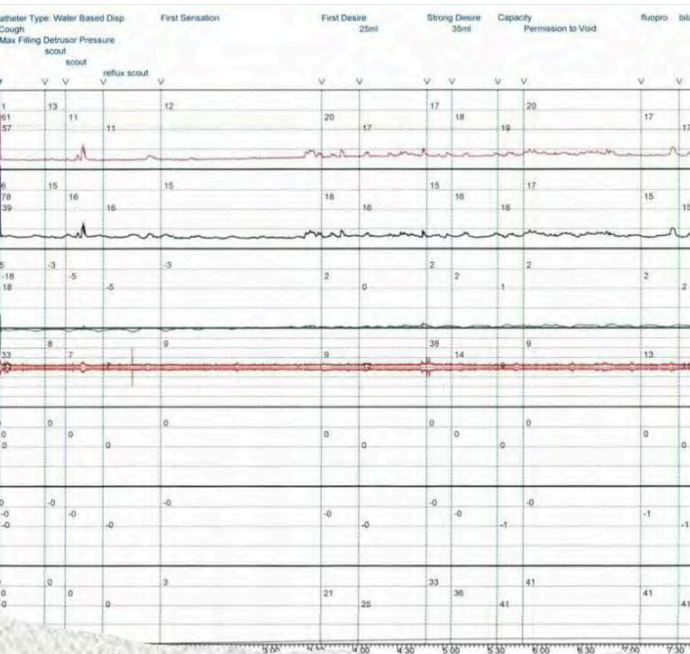
Cystoscopy

Urodynamics

Laparoscopy

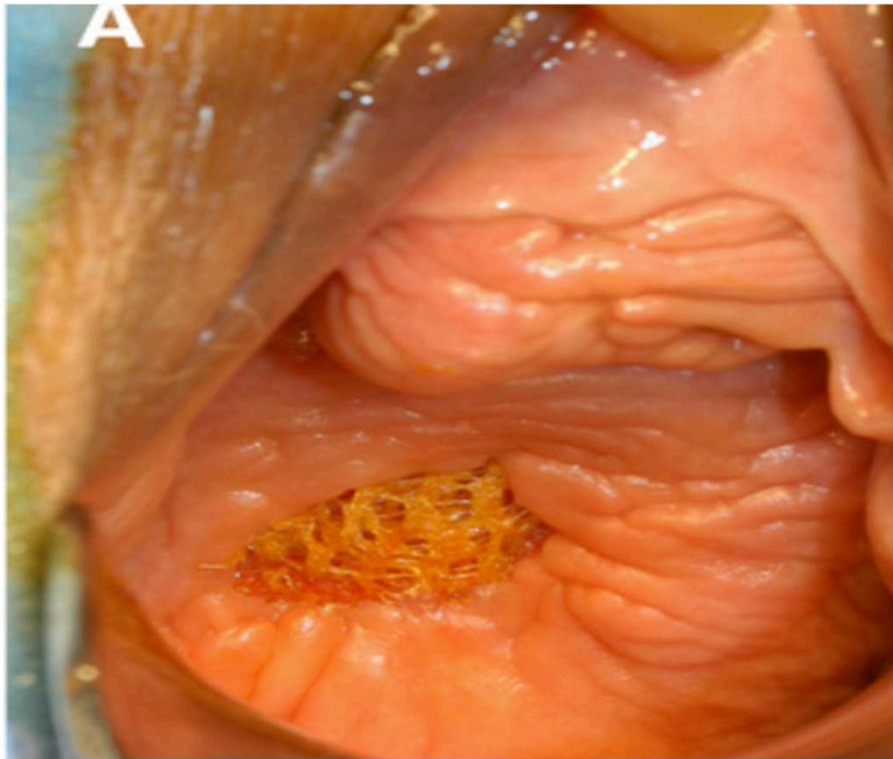
Specialist referral (urologic or non-urologic as appropriate)

\*\*If the patient reports a history of smoking and/or presents with unevaluated microhematuria, then a proper hematuria workup may be considered.

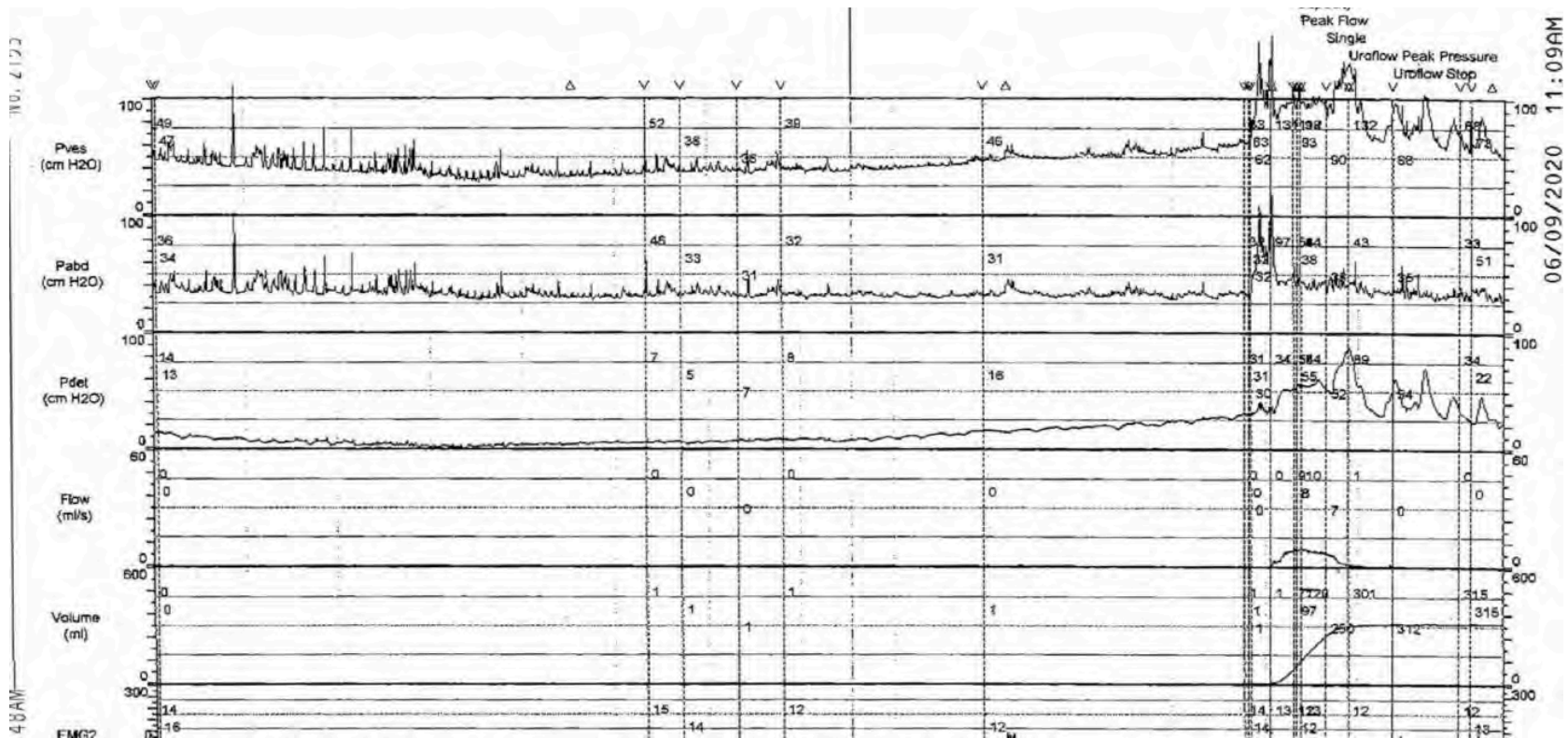


Recurrent UTIs, variable cultures with pyuria, low PVR, double voiding, failing vaginal estrogen and cranberry:  
**Not IC/BPS**

Refractory LUTS:  
Not IC/BPS until proven otherwise



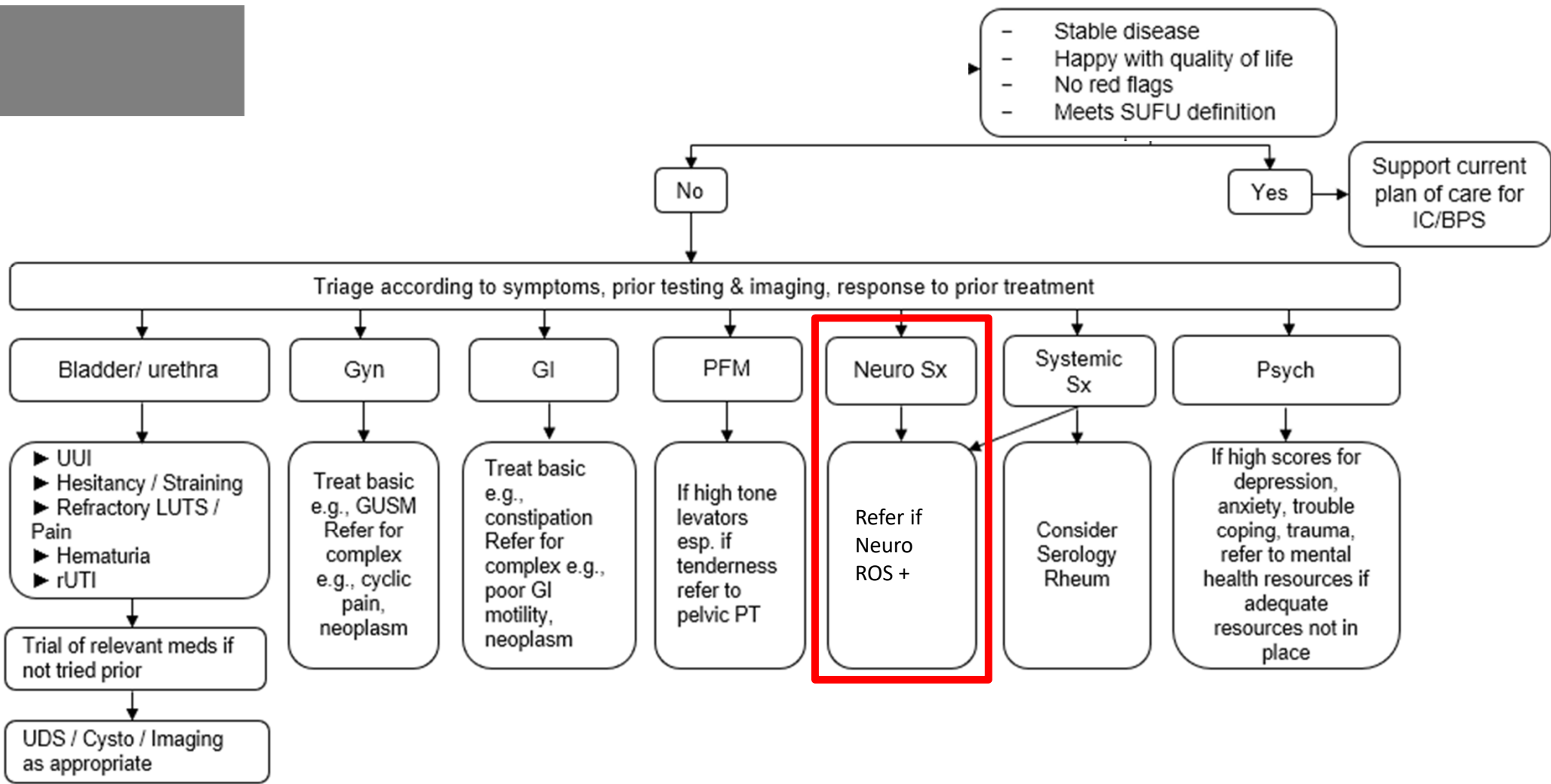
Pain with bladder filling since middle school  
 Poor Bladder Compliance, Tethered Cord  
 Not IC/BPS



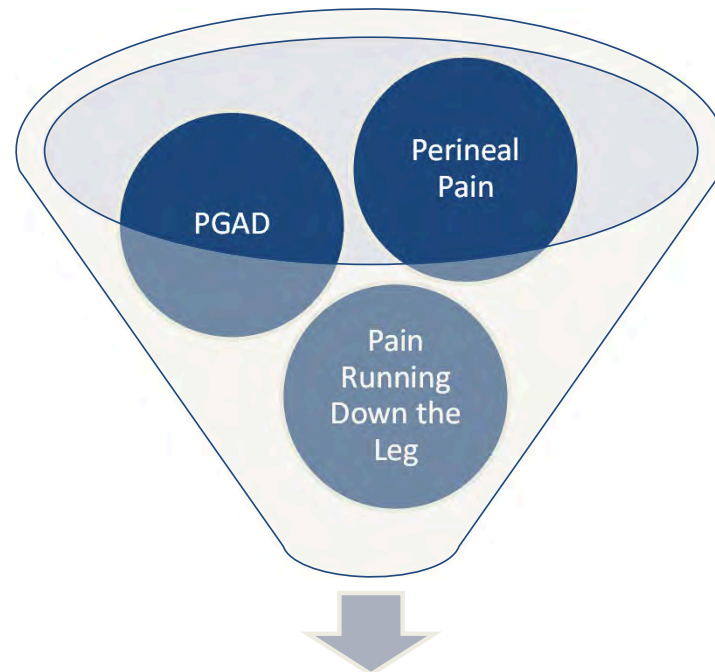
11:01:41 AM

4:34 AM

06/09/2020 11:09 AM



# Case – Never Miss



Never Miss Symptomatic Tarlov Cyst  
(and try to find Occult Neurological Disease in General)

# Audience Poll



- Who knows what a Tarlov cyst is?
- Who has seen one on imaging?
- Who has been told it's incidental?

Continence 14 (2025) 101900

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/cont](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/cont)

ELSEVIER

Continence  
The Journal of the  
International Continence Society

ICS

Undiagnosed neurologic disease in refractory chronic pelvic pain: High yield in screen-positive patients

Check for updates

### Screening criteria for neurological eval in CPP:

- Pain or weakness in a nerve root, peripheral nerve, or CNS pattern
- Combination of bladder, bowel, sexual, pain symptoms referable to lumbosacral spine
- Balance or gait alteration, falls
- Abnormal reflexes or weakness on exam
- Upper motor neuron findings or unexplained hypotonia on urodynamics (e.g., neurogenic detrusor overactivity, DESD)
- Autonomic dysfunction
- Chronic Overlapping Pain Conditions
- Pelvic pain refractory to musculoskeletal and organ-based interventions

**Table 1**

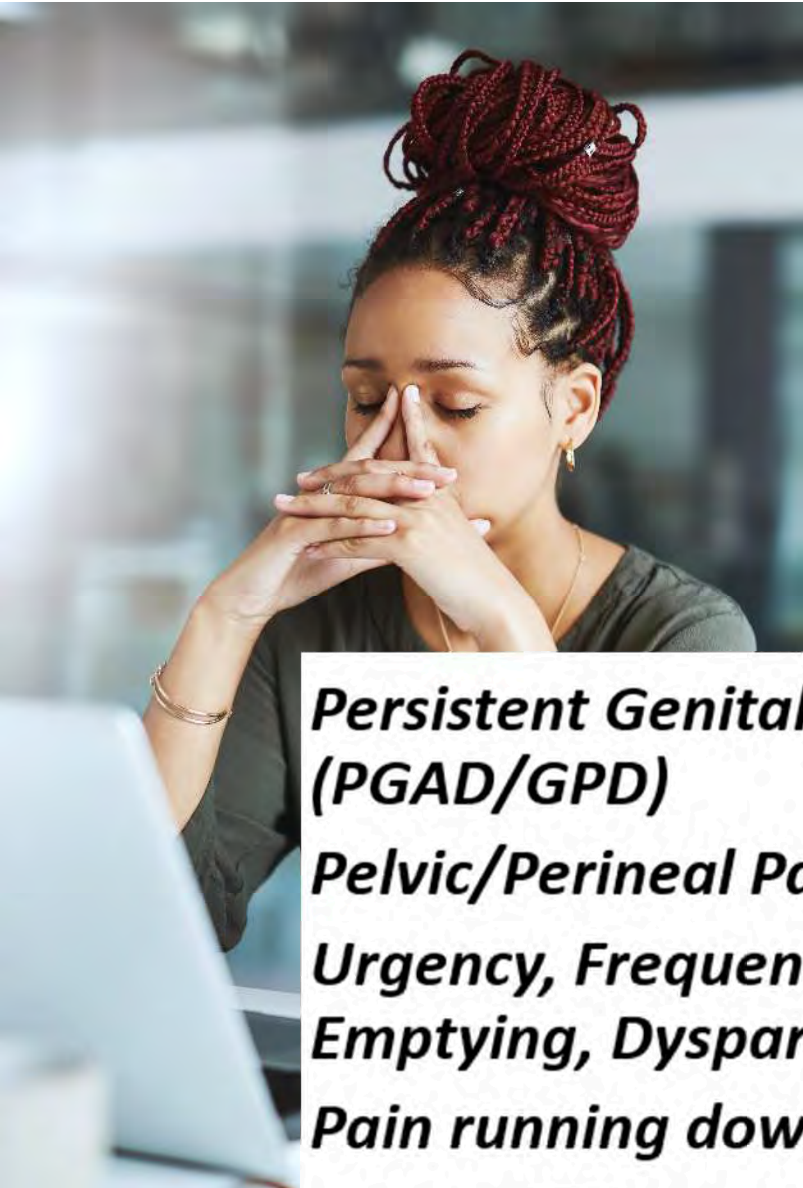
Neurologic Evaluation Outcomes.

| Confirmed Neurologic Diagnoses in Patients with Completed Evaluation | Number of Patients, n (%) of 126 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Any neurologic diagnosis</b>                                      | <b>92 (73%)</b>                  |
| Small Fiber Neuropathy (SFN)                                         | 29 (23%)                         |
| Large Fiber Neuropathy (LFN)                                         | 21 (17%)                         |
| Lumbosacral Radiculopathy                                            | 18 (14%)                         |
| Severe Spinal Stenosis                                               | 14 (11%)                         |
| – Cervical/thoracic                                                  | 5 (4%)                           |
| – Lumbosacral                                                        | 10 (8%)                          |
| Tarlov Cyst Deemed Clinically Significant                            | 7 (6%)                           |
| Herniated Disc Deemed Clinically Significant                         | 6 (5%)                           |
| – Cervical/thoracic                                                  | 1 (1%)                           |
| – Lumbosacral                                                        | 6 (5%)                           |
| Vitamin B12 Deficiency                                               | 6 (5%)                           |
| Ankylosing Spondylitis                                               | 6 (5%)                           |
| MTHFR Mutation                                                       | 5 (4%)                           |
| Chiari Malformation                                                  | 2 (2%)                           |
| Multiple Sclerosis                                                   | 2 (2%)                           |
| Cauda Equina Syndrome                                                | 1 (1%)                           |
| Guillain-Barre Syndrome                                              | 1 (1%)                           |
| Friedrichs Ataxia                                                    | 1 (1%)                           |
| Cerebral Palsy                                                       | 1 (1%)                           |

What  
triggers  
suspicion for  
neurological  
factors?

**Screening criteria** for neurological eval in CPP:

- Pain or weakness in a nerve root, peripheral nerve, or CNS pattern
- Combination of bladder, bowel, sexual, pain sx referable to lumbosacral spine
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- Upper motor neuron findings or unexplained hypotonia on urodynamics (e.g., neurogenic detrusor overactivity, DESD)
- Autonomic dysfunction (POTS, IBS, dry eyes, palpitations)
- Chronic Overlapping Pain Conditions (migraines, TMJ, vulvodynia, foot pain)
- Pelvic pain refractory to musculoskeletal and organ-based interventions



## High Tone Pelvic Floor with Pain (Pelvic Floor Tension Myalgia) Refractory to PT

---

- 32 year old female
  - Headaches
  - GERD
  - No PSH
  - G2P1 Vaginal, 7lbs

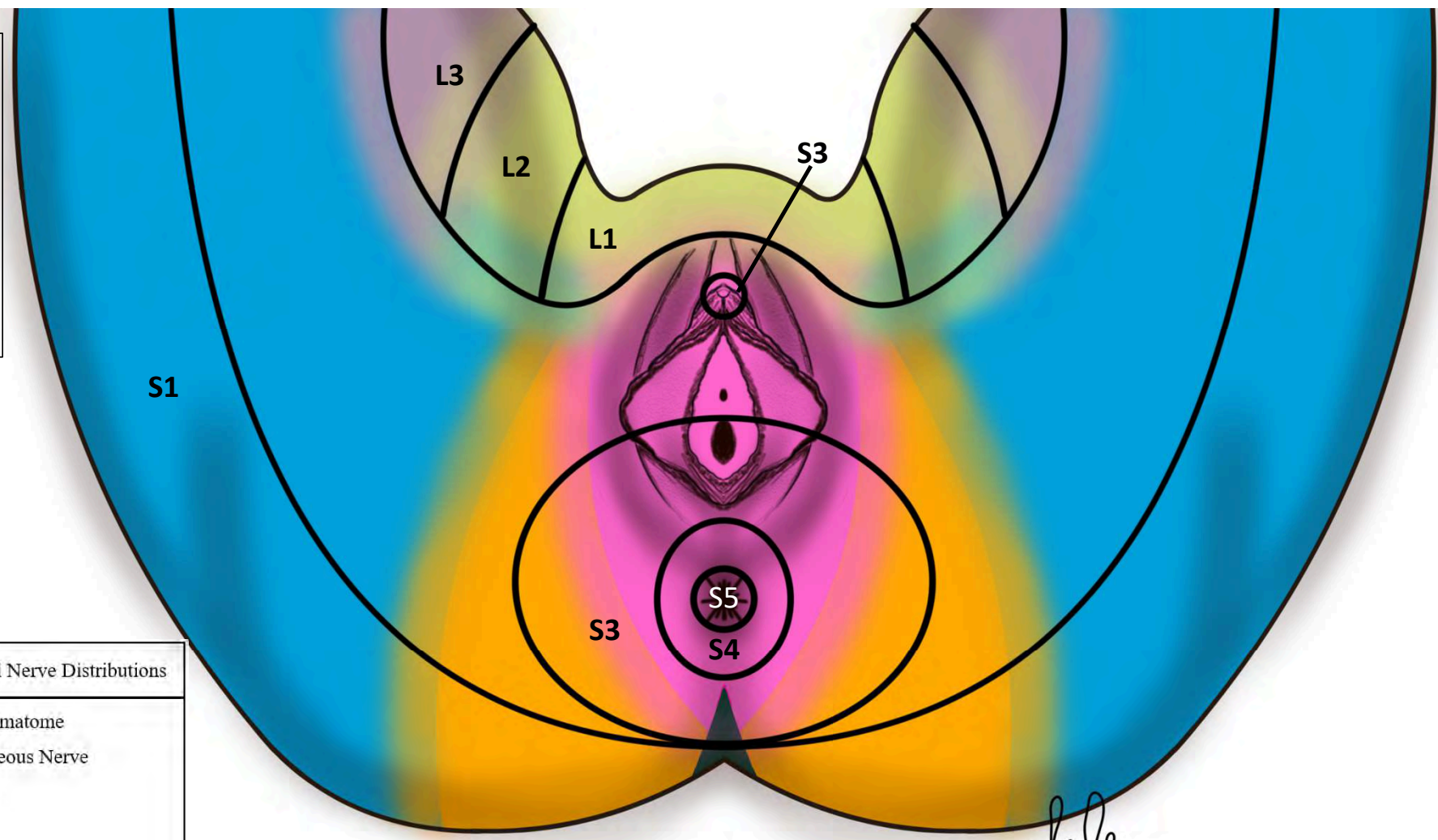
***Persistent Genital Arousal Disorder/Genitopelvic Dysesthesia  
(PGAD/GPD)***

***Pelvic/Perineal Pain***

***Urgency, Frequency, Pelvic Pressure, Sensation of Incomplete  
Emptying, Dyspareunia***

***Pain running down the leg, worse as day goes on***

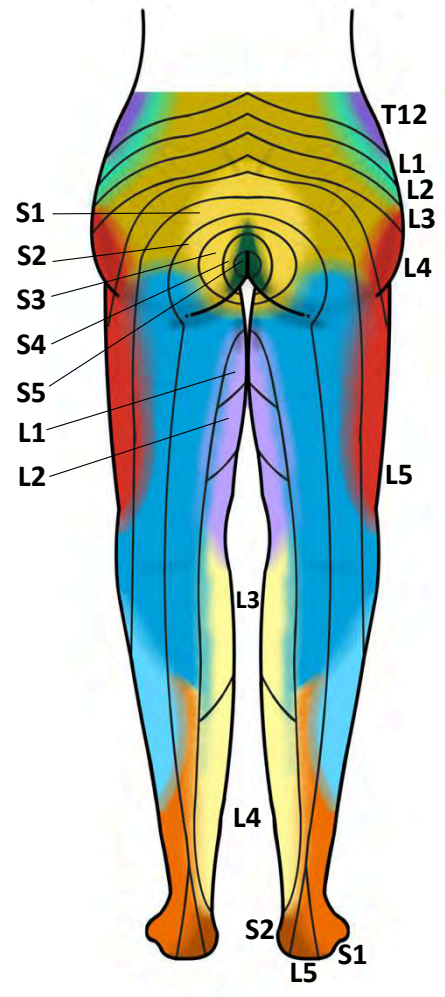
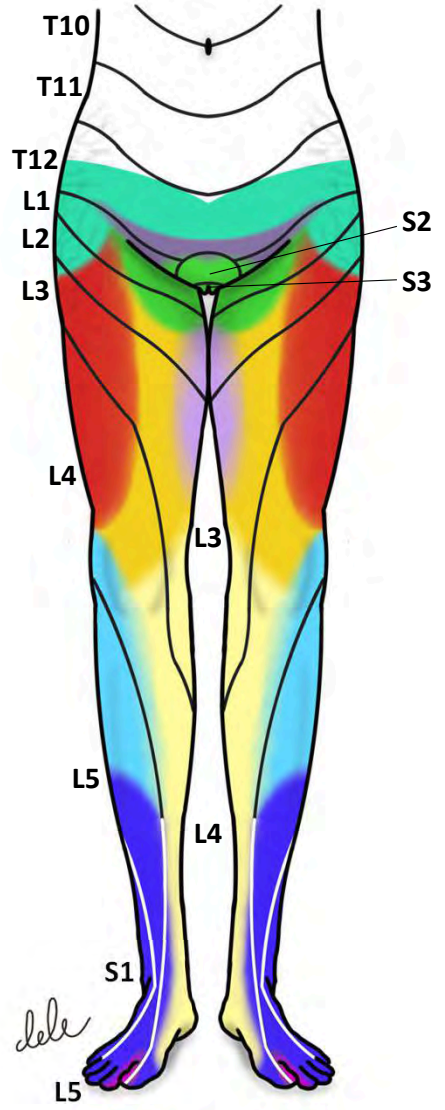
Peripheral nerve distributions (color) and spinal nerve root dermatomes (black lines) can indicate which nerves are causing pain.



- Dermatomes and Peripheral Nerve Distributions**
- Spinal Nerve Root Dermatome
  - Posterior Femurocutaneous Nerve
  - Inferior cluneal Nerve
  - Pudendal Nerve
  - Genitofemoral Nerve
  - Obturator Nerve
  - Coccygeal plexus

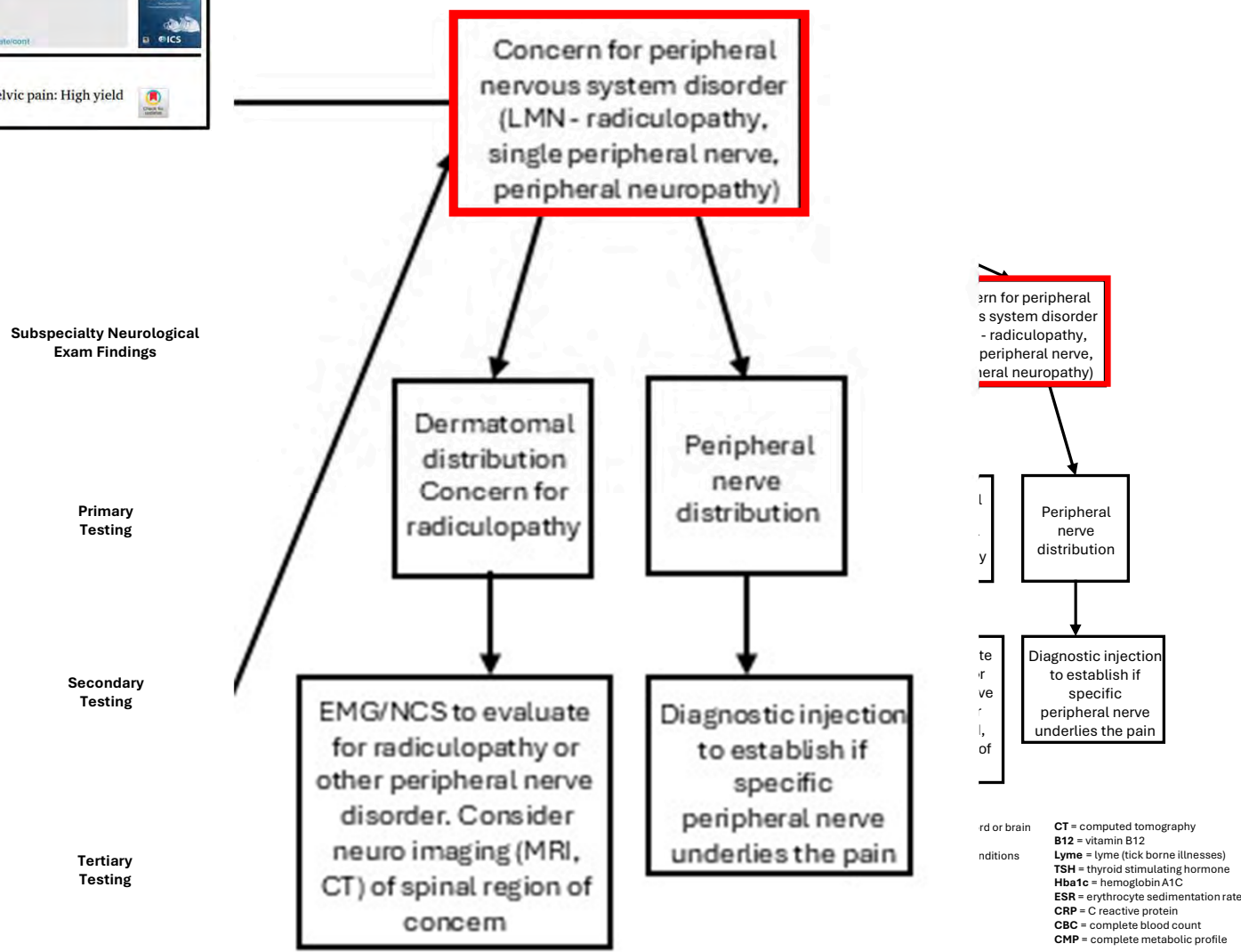
Nucelio Lemos, MD, PhD and Diba De, BS  
 Requests for permission: Linked In 333233184

| Key of Spinal Nerve Root Dermatomes and Peripheral Nerve Distributions |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| —                                                                      | Spinal Nerve Root Dermatome        |
| ●                                                                      | Iliohypogastric Nerve              |
| ●                                                                      | Ilioinguinal Nerve                 |
| ●                                                                      | Genitofemoral Nerve                |
| ●                                                                      | Lateral Femoral Cutaneous Nerve    |
| ●                                                                      | Femoral Nerve                      |
| ●                                                                      | Obturator Nerve                    |
| ●                                                                      | Posterior Femorocutaneous Nerves   |
| ●                                                                      | Femoral Nerve (Saphenous Branch)   |
| ●                                                                      | Common Fibular Nerve (superficial) |
| ●                                                                      | Common Fibular Nerve (deep)        |
| ●                                                                      | Posterior Femorocutaneous Nerves   |
| ●                                                                      | Superior Cluneal Nerve             |
| ●                                                                      | Middle Cluneal Nerve               |
| ●                                                                      | Tibial Nerve (Sural)               |
| ●                                                                      | Tibial Nerve                       |
| ●                                                                      | Coccygeal Plexus                   |

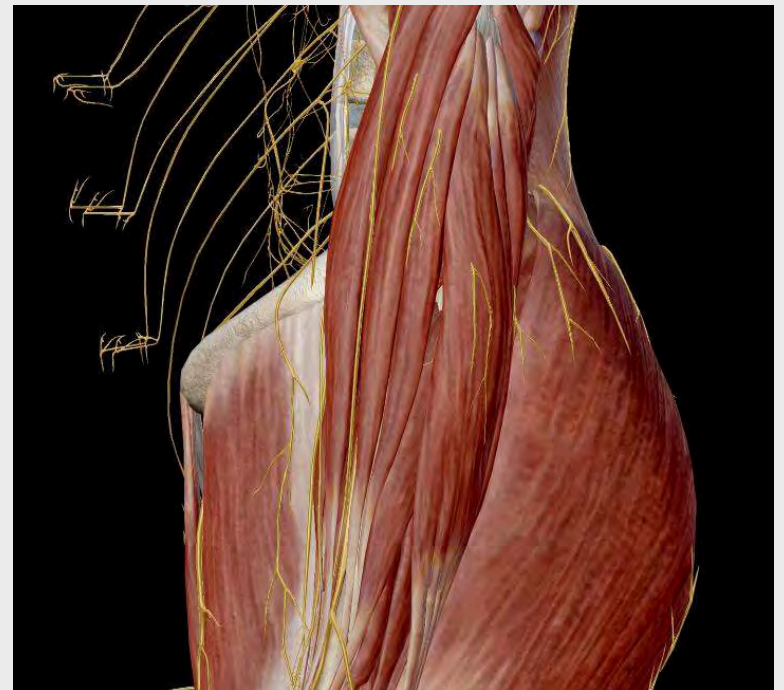
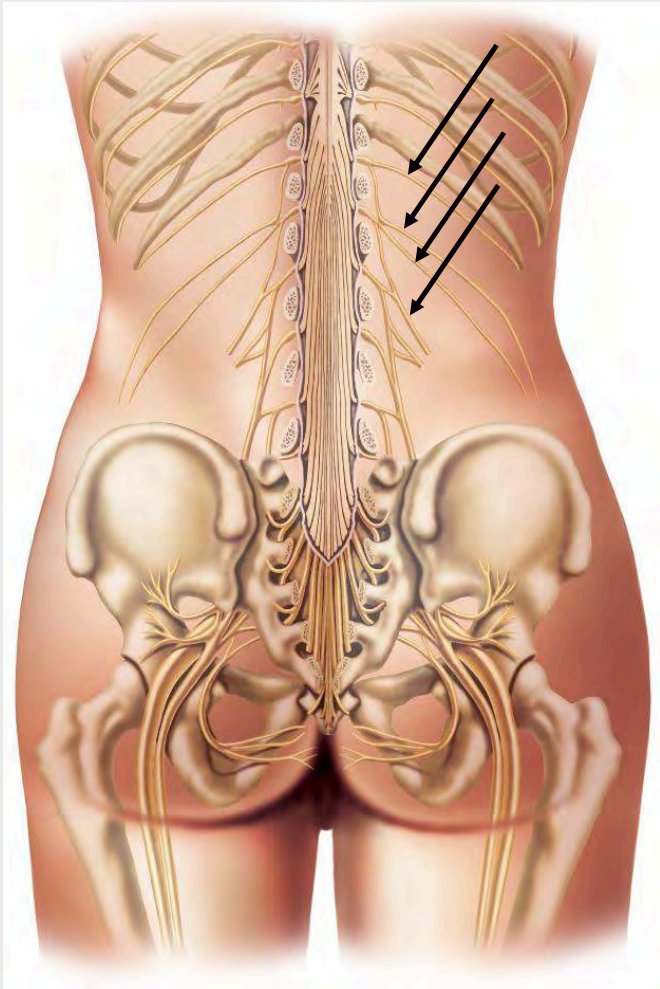


Nucelio Lemos, MD,  
 PhD and Diba De, BS  
 Requests for permission: Linked In 333233184

**Figure 2: Neurologist's Diagnostic Algorithm in people with CPP referred by pelvic health for a positive Neurological Screening.**  
 This is a basic guide, not to replace subspecialty neurological evaluation. Copyright retained by the authors.



# Abdominal Wall Nerve Entrapment



## At a Glance: Sacral Process

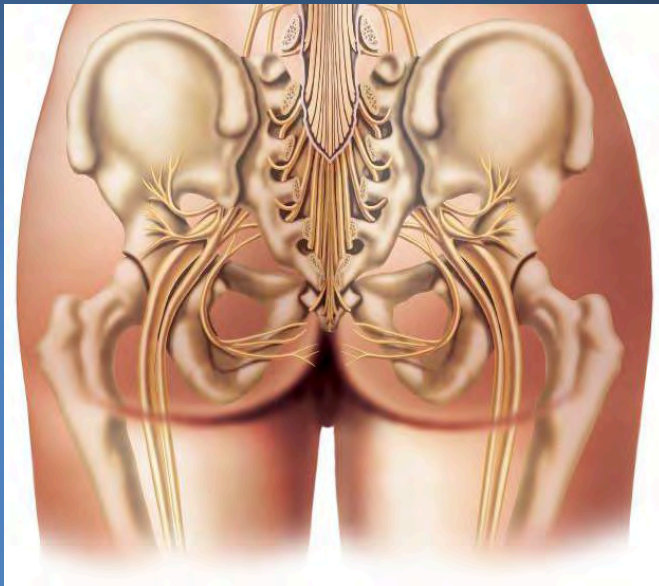
Adult Tethered Cord

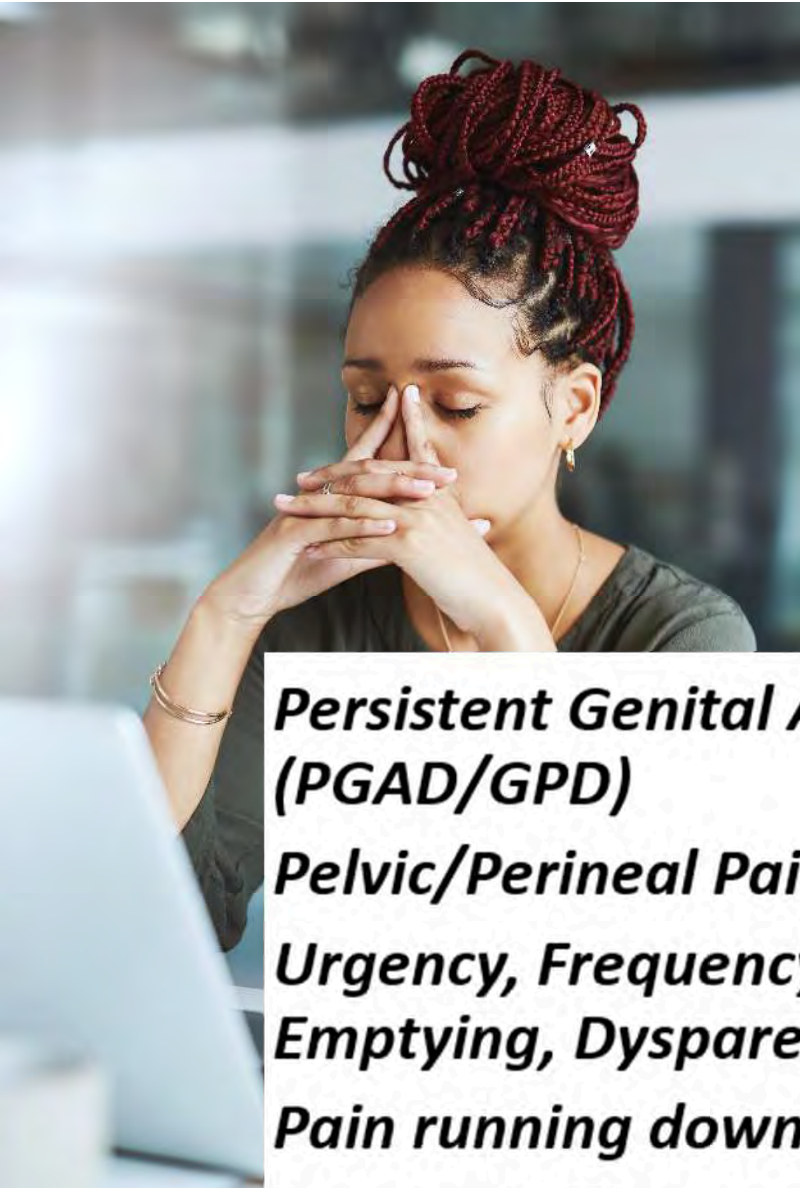
- mixed UMN and LMN

Sacral Chordoma

Syringomyelia

Bilateral Tarlov Cysts





## High Tone Pelvic Floor with Pain (Pelvic Floor Tension Myalgia) Refractory to PT

---

- 32 year old female
  - Headaches
  - GERD
  - No PSH
  - G2P1 Vaginal, 7lbs

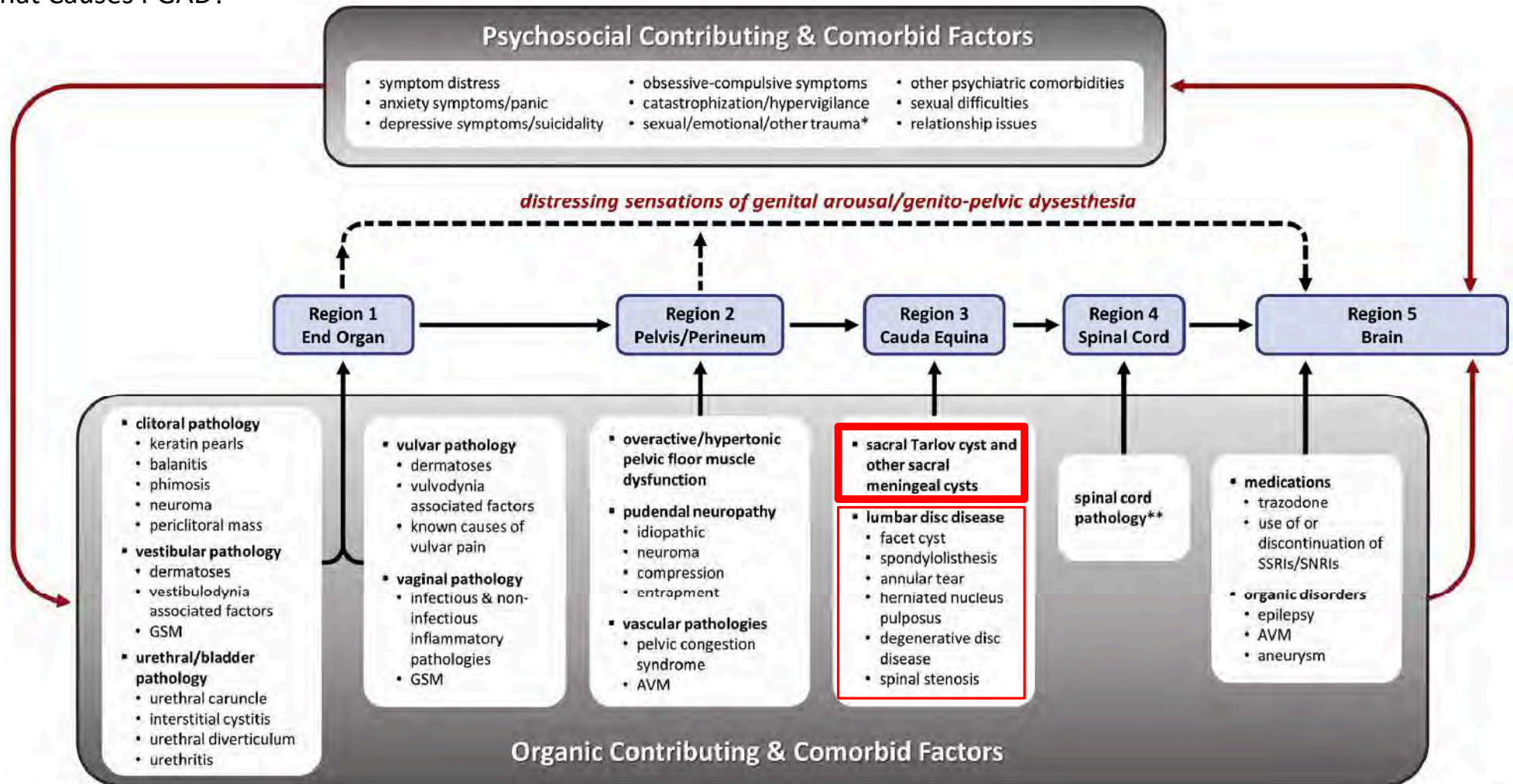
***Persistent Genital Arousal Disorder/Genitopelvic Dysesthesia  
(PGAD/GPD)***

***Pelvic/Perineal Pain***

***Urgency, Frequency, Pelvic Pressure, Sensation of Incomplete  
Emptying, Dyspareunia***

***Pain running down the leg, worse as day goes on***

# What Causes PGAD?

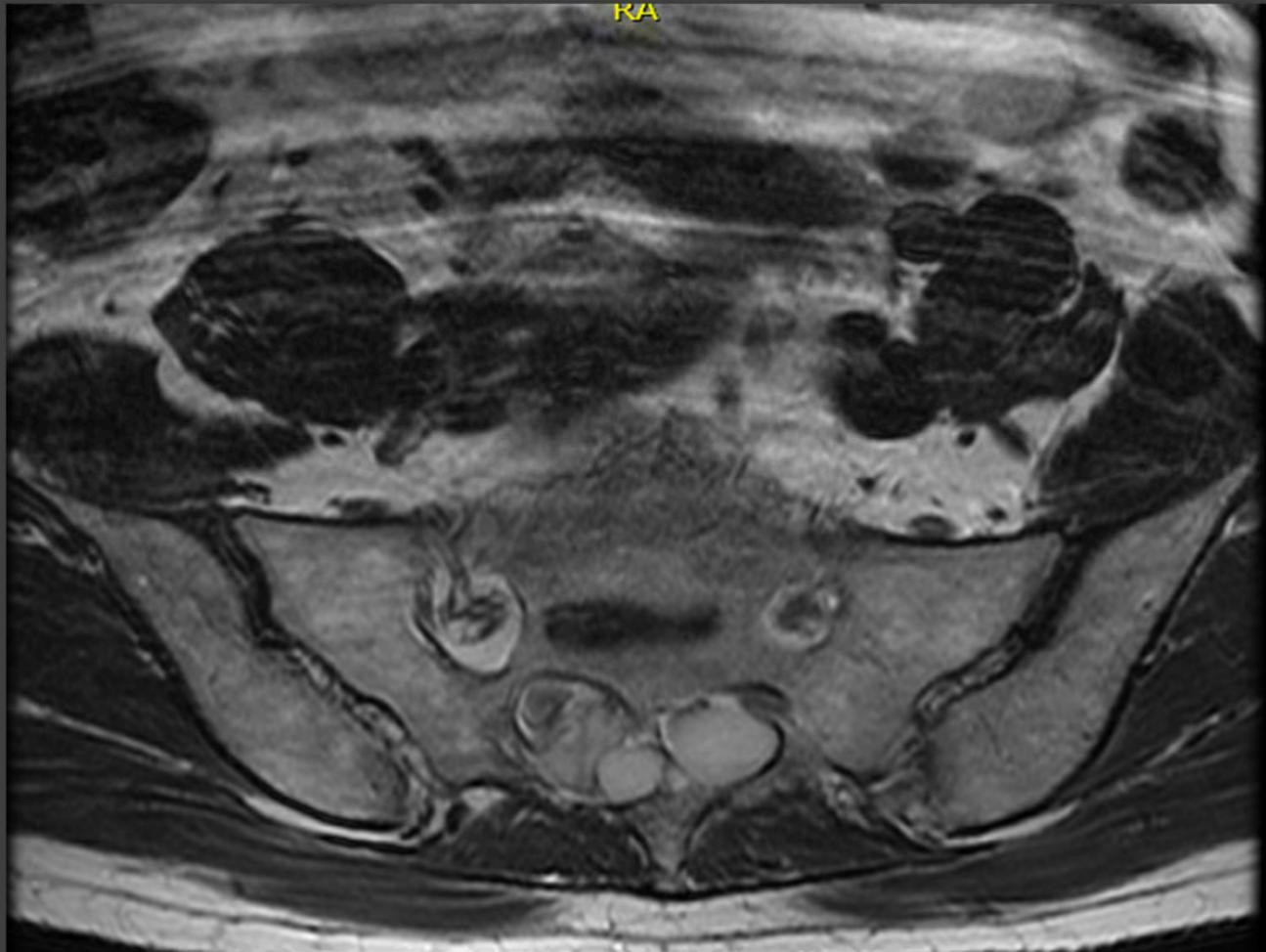


Goldstein I, Komisaruk BR, Pukall CF, Kim NN, Goldstein AT, Goldstein SW, Hartzell-Cushman R, Kellogg-Spatt S, Kim CW, Jackowich RA, Parish SJ, Patterson A, **Peters KM**, Pfaus JG. International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH) Review of Epidemiology and Pathophysiology, and a Consensus Nomenclature and Process of Care for the Management of Persistent Genital Arousal Disorder/Genito-Pelvic Dysesthesia (PGAD/GPD). J Sex Med. 2021 Apr;18(4):665-697. doi: 10.1016/j.jsxm.2021.01.172. Epub 2021 Feb 19. PMID: 33612417.

Tarlov  
(Perineurial) Cyst

15% of population

15% Symptomatic



## Case



32F with:

- Chronic pelvic/perineal pain
- Urinary urgency, dyspareunia
- Failed meds + pelvic PT
- Pelvic MRI: “normal”
- Sacral MRI: S2 Tarlov cyst

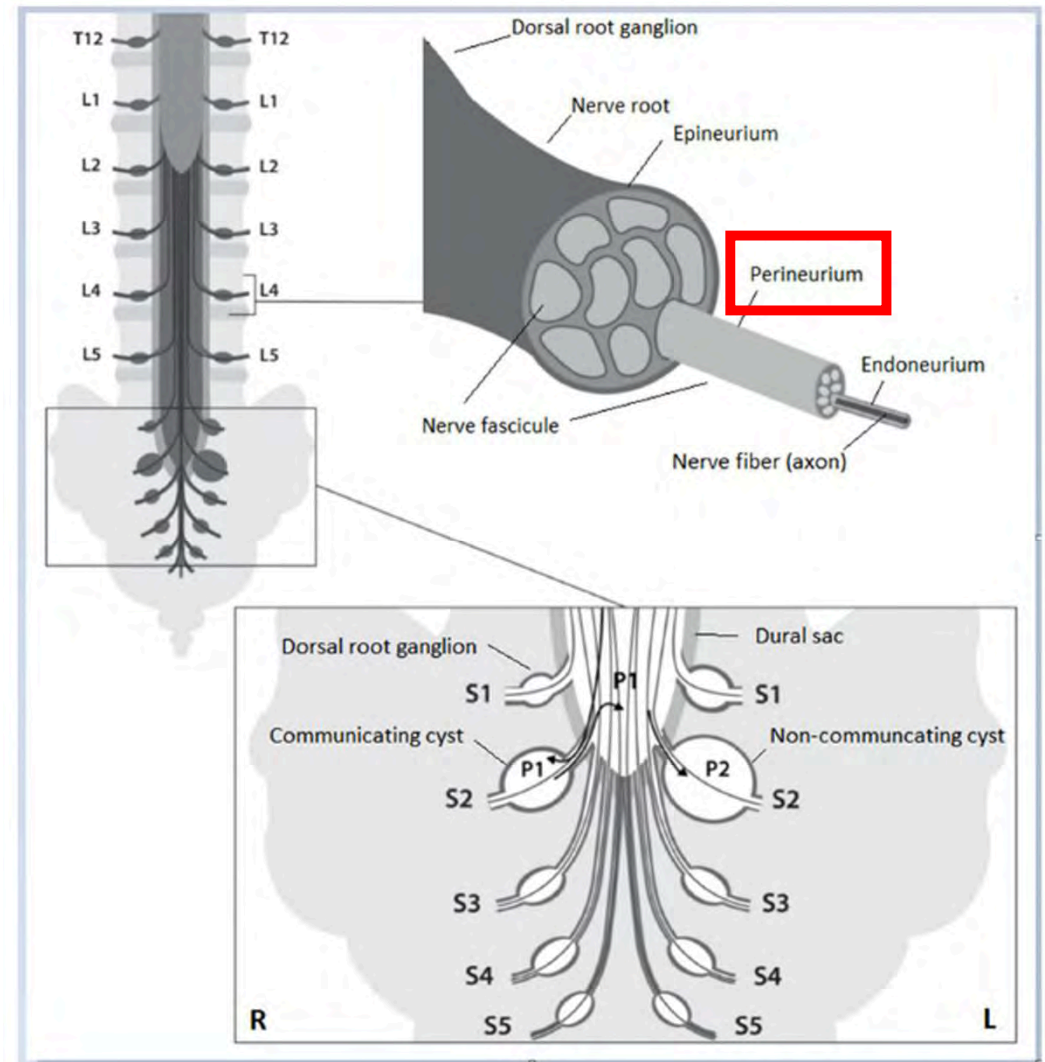
**Key point:** You have seen this patient

# Tarlov (Perineurial) Cyst Pathophysiology

- CSF pressure → cyst formation
- Axonal stretch and injury
- Neuropathic pain, autonomic dysfunction

## Key:

Compression AND Stretch Injury



# Sacral Tarlov perineurial cysts: a systematic review of treatment options

Jan Alberto Paredes Mogica, MD,<sup>1</sup> Frank Feigenbaum, MD,<sup>2</sup> Julie G. Pilitsis, MD, PhD, MBA,<sup>3</sup> Rudolph J. Schrot, MD, MAS,<sup>4</sup> Anne Louise Oaklander, MD, PhD,<sup>5</sup> and Elise J. B. De, MD<sup>6</sup>

INCLUDE WHEN CITING Published online December 15, 2023; DOI: 10.3171/2023.9.SPINE23559.

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J Neurosurg Spine December 15, 2023

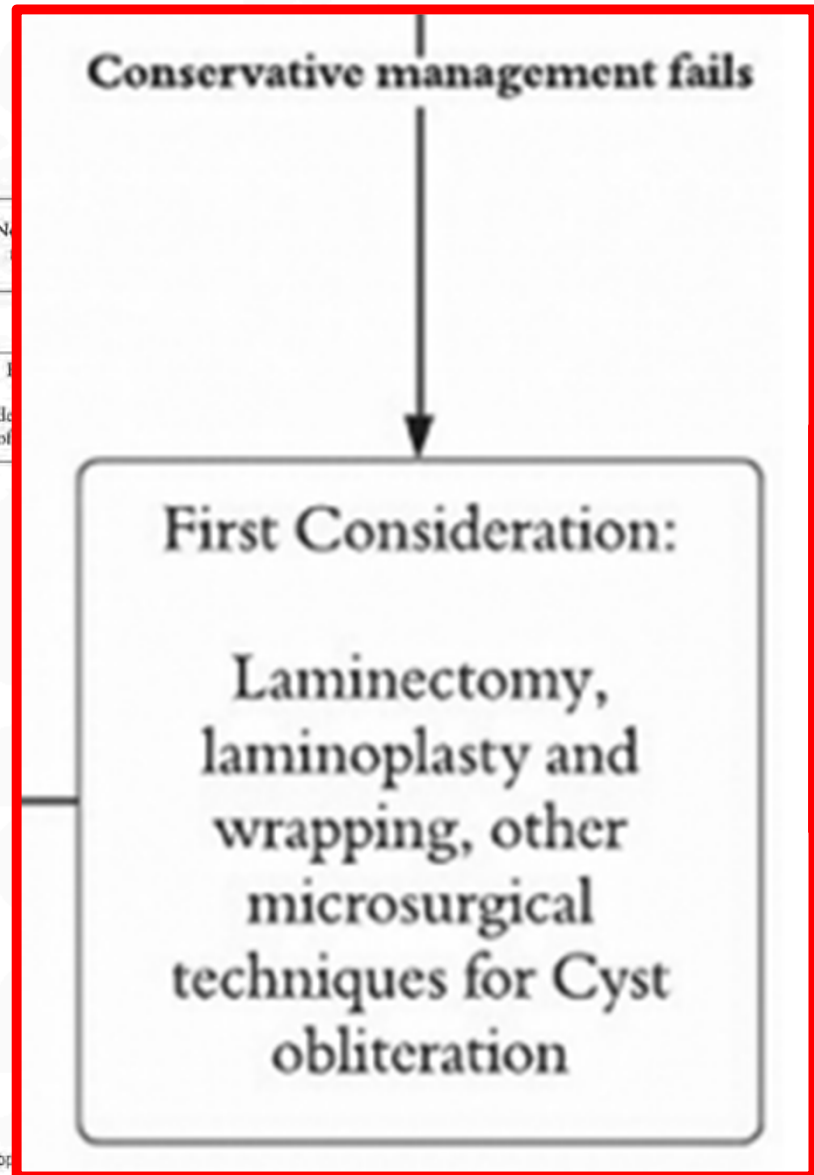
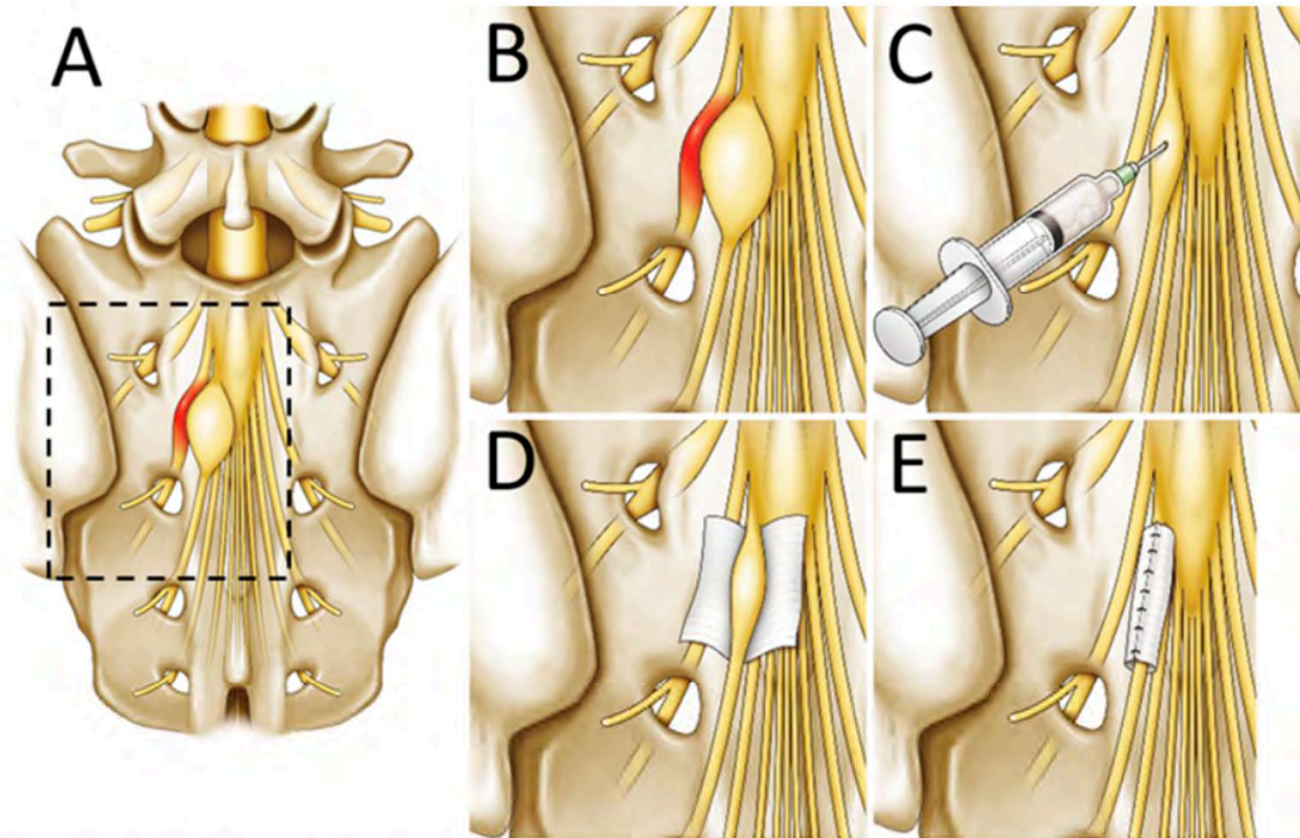


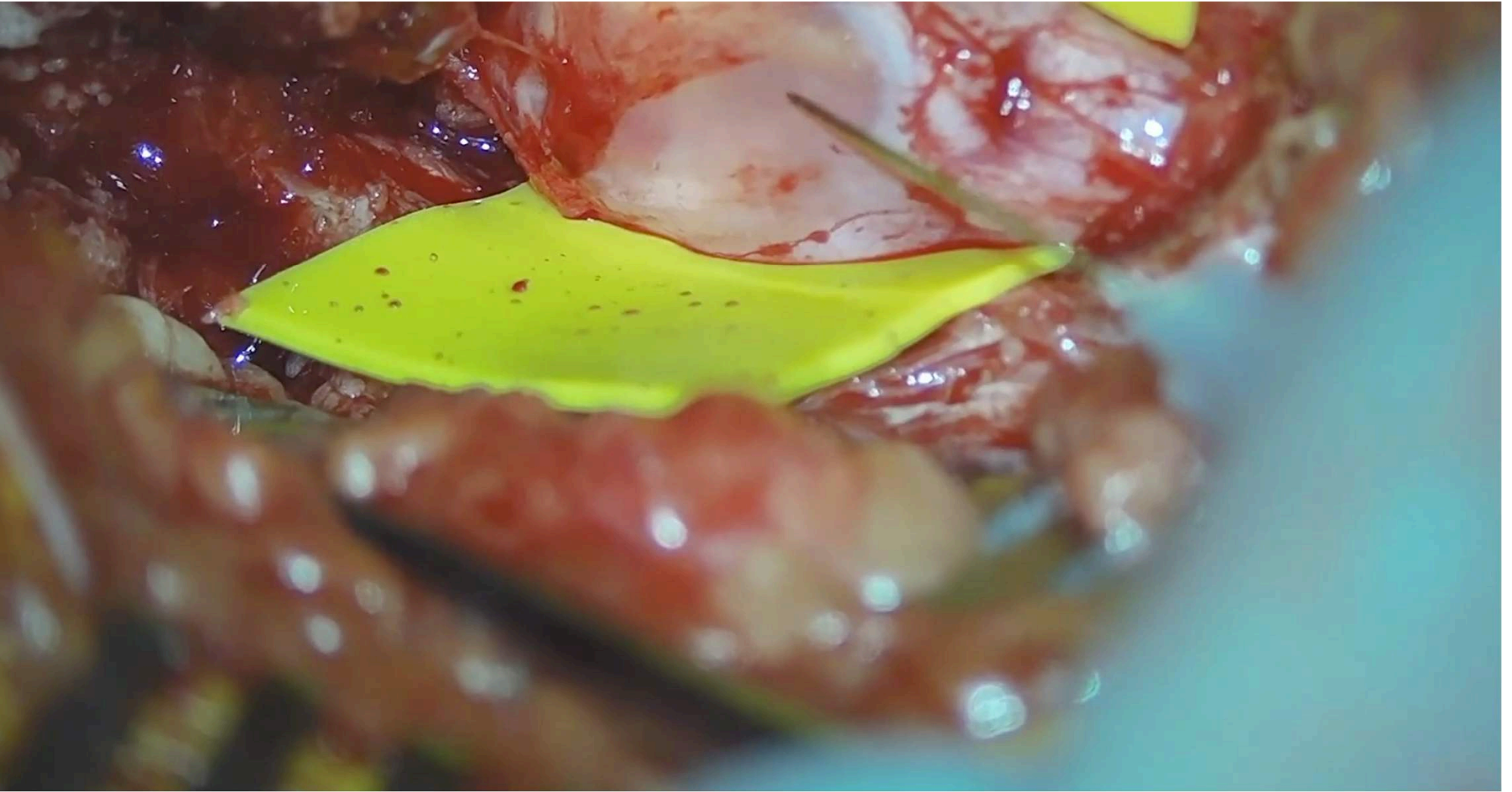
FIG. 4. Prop

# Surgical Approach



Schematic drawings of the wrapping procedure for SPCs. **A:** The left S3 SPC compresses the left S2 nerve root laterally, causes the S2 radicular symptoms. **B:** Enlargement of the rectangular region enclosed by a *dotted line* in panel A. **C:** After left sacral laminectomy, the cyst is punctured and the fluid is aspirated using a small needle. **D:** After a shrinkage of the cyst, the nerve roots are separated from the cyst and an ePTFE membrane is wrapped around the cyst. **E:** The membrane is then reduced to an adequate size and is closed with titanium nonpenetrating clips. Copyright Taku Sugawara. Published with permission.

Courtesy Rudolph Schrot MD

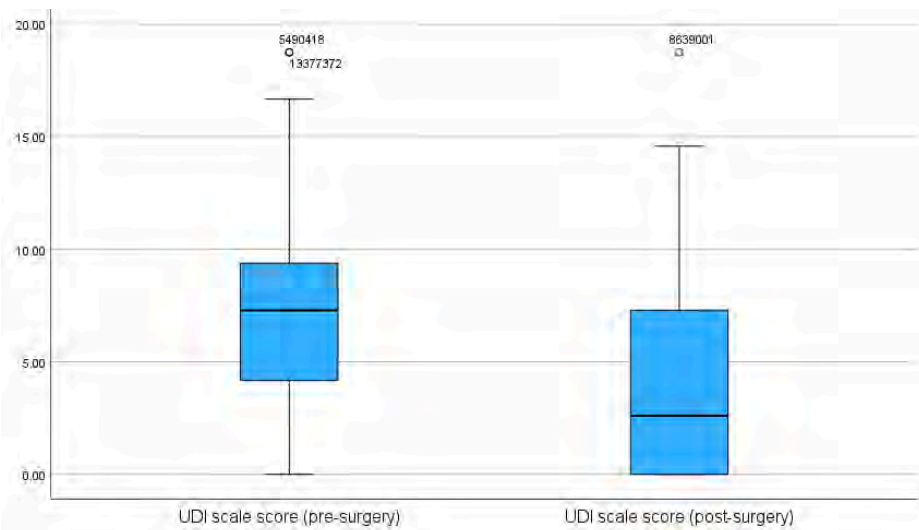


Courtesy Rudolph Schrot MD

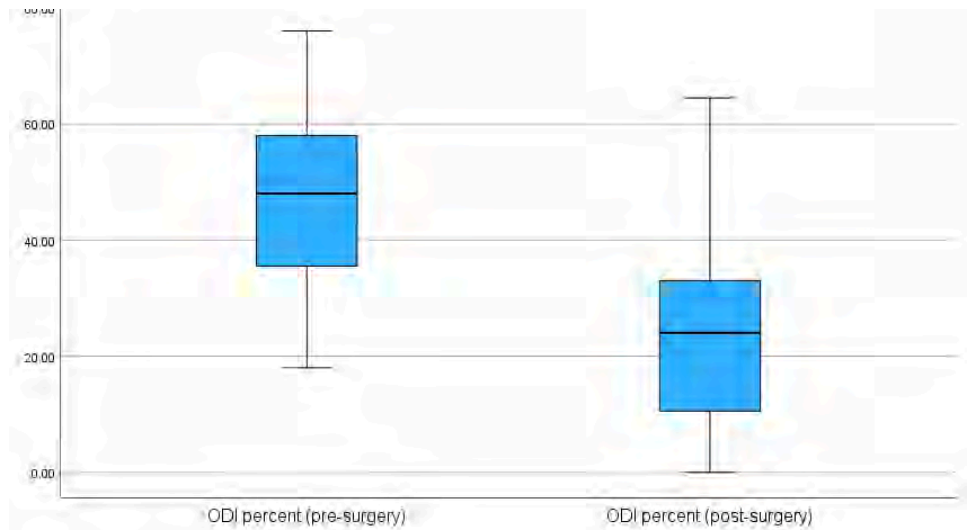
# Tarlov Cyst Outcomes

- N=47
- Significant UDI-6 and ODI improvement
- 87% patient satisfaction, low complication rates

## UDI-6



## ODI



# Tarlov Cyst Outcomes – Tarlov Cyst Quality of Life Scale

**TABLE 3. The Tarlov Cyst Quality-of-Life Item Scores**

| Item                                | Preoperative | 3-mo postoperative | 6-mo postoperative | 1-y postoperative | 2-y postoperative |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sacral pain                         | 4.6 ± 1.8    | 2.5 ± 2.0          | 2.3 ± 1.9          | 2.1 ± 2.0         | 1.9 ± 2.1         |
| Perineal pain                       | 2.6 ± 2.2    | 1.5 ± 2.0          | 1.3 ± 1.8          | 1.2 ± 1.8         | 1.1 ± 1.8         |
| Perineal numbness                   | 1.5 ± 2.0    | 1.3 ± 1.7          | 1.1 ± 1.6          | .9 ± 1.6          | .9 ± 1.7          |
| Persistent genital arousal disorder | .6 ± 1.7     | .5 ± 1.4           | .4 ± 1.2           | .3 ± 1.0          | .4 ± 1.1          |
| Lower extremity pain                | 4.0 ± 2.0    | 2.3 ± 2.1          | 2.0 ± 2.0          | 2.0 ± 2.0         | 2.0 ± 2.1         |
| Lower extremity weakness            | 3.1 ± 2.2    | 1.6 ± 1.9          | 1.4 ± 1.8          | 1.3 ± 1.9         | 1.5 ± 2.0         |
| Lower extremity numbness            | 2.8 ± 2.2    | 1.5 ± 1.8          | 1.2 ± 1.6          | 1.3 ± 1.7         | 1.5 ± 1.9         |
| Bladder function                    | 2.7 ± 2.2    | 1.2 ± 1.6          | 1.1 ± 1.6          | 1.1 ± 1.5         | 1.2 ± 1.7         |
| Bowel function                      | 2.6 ± 2.2    | 1.3 ± 1.8          | 1.2 ± 1.7          | 1.1 ± 1.8         | 1.3 ± 1.8         |
| Dyspareunia                         | 2.3 ± 2.4    | 1.4 ± 1.8          | 1.0 ± 1.8          | 1.1 ± 1.8         | 1.1 ± 1.9         |
| Discomfort while sitting            | 5.3 ± 1.4    | 3.2 ± 2.0          | 2.9 ± 2.0          | 2.6 ± 2.1         | 2.7 ± 2.1         |

Feigenbaum F, Parks SE, Chapple KM. World Neurosurg. 2022 Sep;165:e276-e281. doi: 10.1016/j.wneu.2022.06.033. Epub 2022 Jun 11. PMID: 35700862.  
 Feigenbaum F, et al. 2026 May 1;98(5):1156-1165. doi: 10.1227/neu.0000000000003758. Epub 2025 Sep 19. PMID: 40970698.

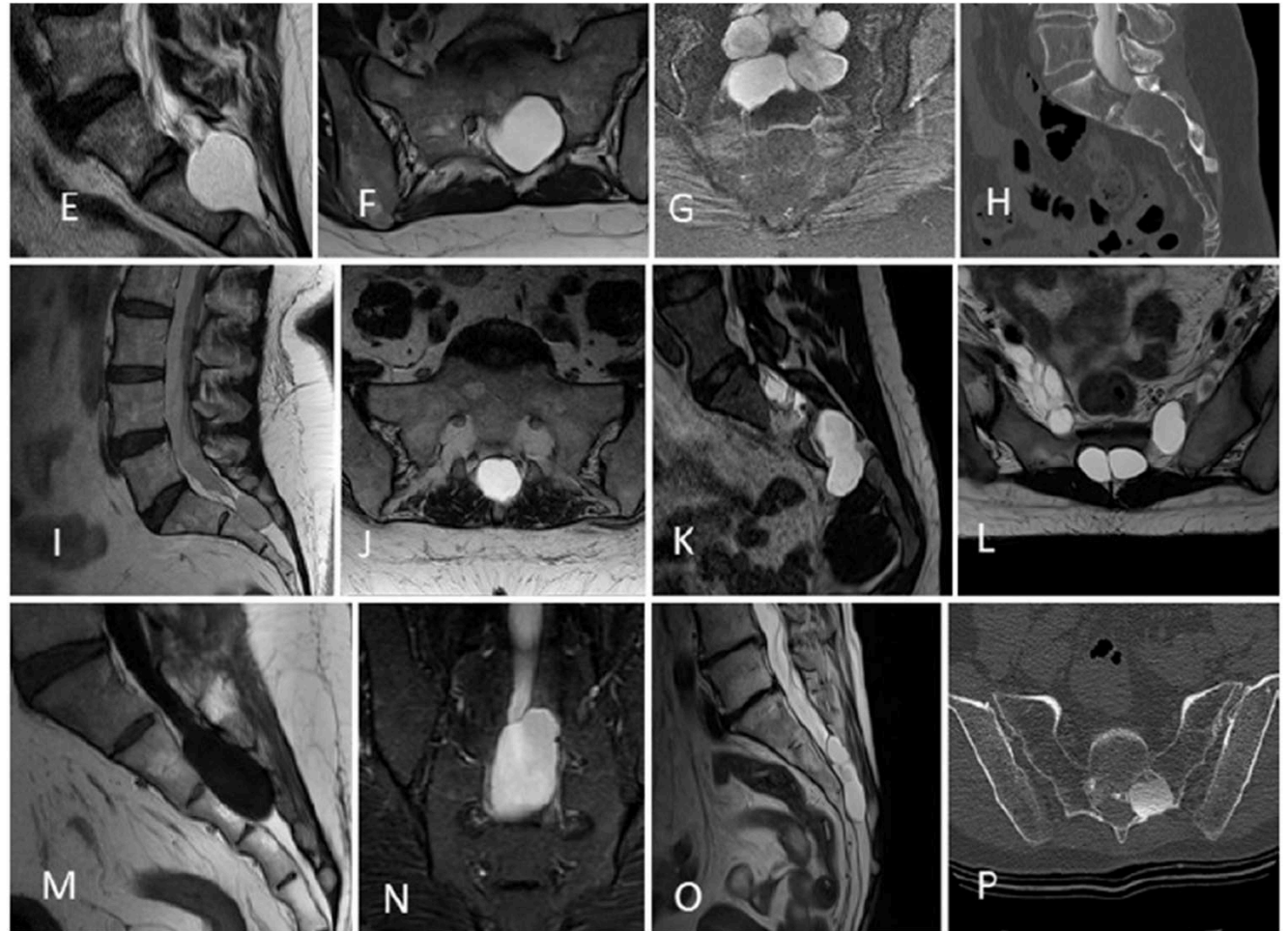
# What to Do Differently

## Note Red Flags for Sacral Pathology

- Dermatomal patterns
- Sitting intolerance
- Perineal dysesthesia
- Bladder dysfunction (without anatomic cause)
- Bowel dysfunction
- Sexual dysfunction (dyspareunia, PGAD)

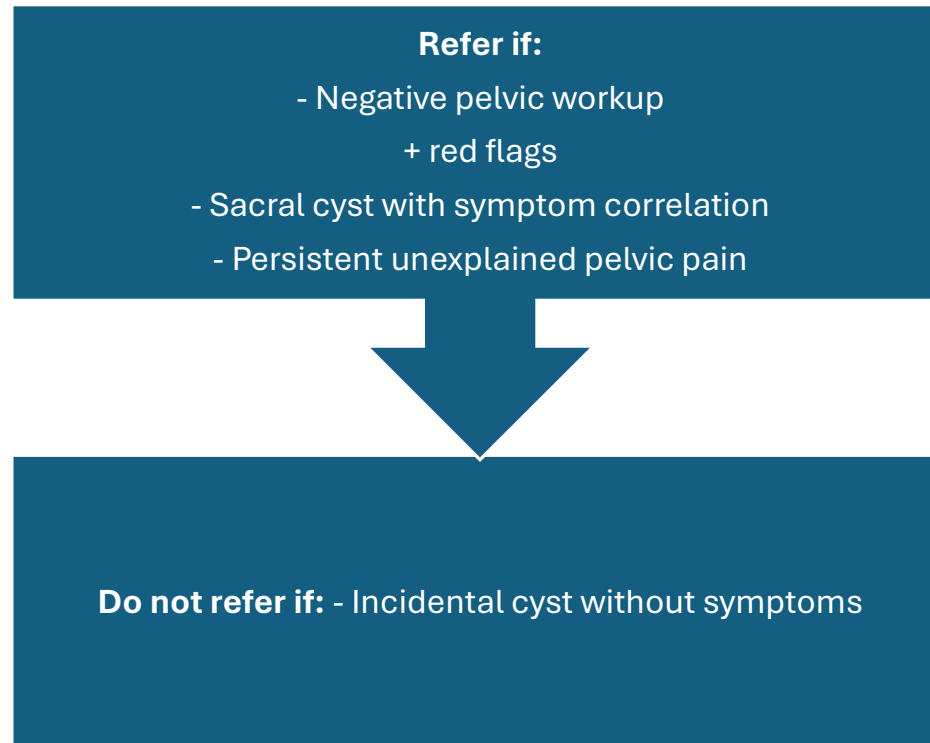
## Change the workup

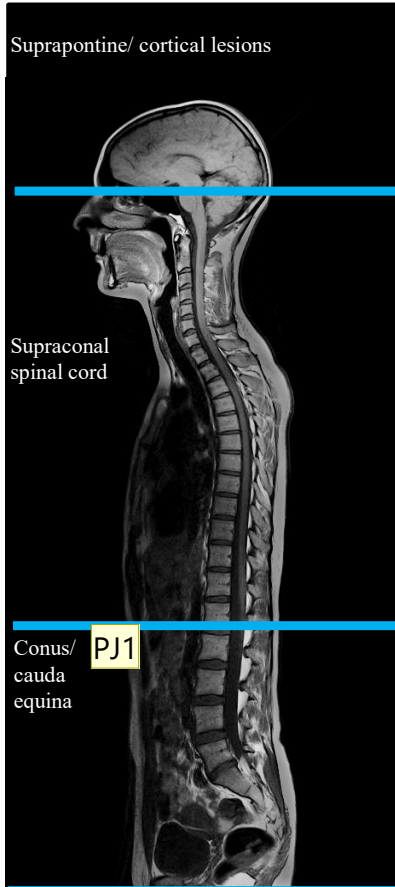
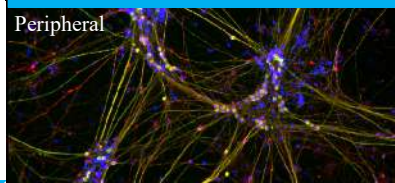
- Look at MRI images yourself
- Order MRI sacrum (not just pelvis or lumbar)
- Note EMG poorly assesses S2–S4



Courtesy Rudolph Schrot MD

# When to Refer



| Table 1a                                                                                                                                         | Level                                                                               | Conditions with SINGLE Level                                                                                                                      | Symptoms                                                                                                                                       | Typical UDS Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Conditions with MULTILEVEL Impact</b>                                                                                                         | Suprapontine/ cortical lesions                                                      | Vascular: small vessel disease, stroke<br>Neurodegenerative: MSA, Parkinson's Disease, Dementia with Lewy bodies<br>Trauma (TBI)<br>Tumors<br>NPH | Storage symptoms<br>Good emptying                                                                                                              | Suprapontine<br>- Detrusor overactivity<br>- Opening of bladder neck<br>- Opening of external urethral sphincter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Inflammatory<br>- Elsberg syndrome (herpes)<br>- Myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody disease (MOGAD, CNS)<br>- Multiple sclerosis (CNS) |   | Chiari, craniocervical inst.                                                                                                                      | Storage symptoms                                                                                                                               | Infrapontine - detrusor overactivity, sphincter relaxation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Multiple System Atrophy (CNS)                                                                                                                    |                                                                                     | Spinal cord injury<br>Cervical or thoracic spinal stenosis<br>Herniated disc<br>Dural arteriovenous fistula                                       | Storage and voiding symptoms<br>Incomplete emptying                                                                                            | Supraconal Spinal Cord<br>- Detrusor overactivity<br>- Detrusor external sphincter dyssynergia<br>- Additionally, if the lesion is above T6, bladder neck dyssynergia and autonomic dysreflexia can be seen                                                                                                                                                     |
| Tethered spinal cord                                                                                                                             | Supraconal spinal cord                                                              |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Neoplasm<br>- Glioblastoma (cortical)<br>- Ependymoma (more commonly spinal cord in adults)<br>- Sacral chordoma<br>- Others                     | Conus/ cauda equina <b>PJ1</b>                                                      | Cauda equina<br>Lumbar spinal stenosis<br>Spina bifida occulta<br>Tarlov cyst (mixed)<br>Sacral chordoma                                          | Voiding symptoms<br>Incomplete emptying                                                                                                        | Sacral S2-S4<br>- Detrusor areflexia<br>- If Onuf's impacted, loss of external sphincter tone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Metabolic<br>- B12 deficiency<br>- Thyroid disorders                                                                                             |  | Mixed:<br>Spina bifida occulta                                                                                                                    | Caveat: Tarlov cysts can also cause storage symptoms due to irritation of dorsal root afferent sensory fibers                                  | Tarlov Cyst, Spinal Bifida Occulta<br>- Mixed picture (detrusor overactivity or underactivity)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Infectious<br>- Lyme                                                                                                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Autoimmune<br>- Lupus<br>- Amyloidosis<br>- Sjogren's                                                                                            | Peripheral                                                                          | Pelvic surgery<br><br>Diabetes<br>Vasculitis<br>Sjogren's syndrome<br>Small fiber neuropathy                                                      | <b>PJ4</b> mixed picture 2° to impact on parasympathetic and sympathetic nerve fibers<br>Storage symptoms<br>Voiding symptoms<br>Dysuria, pain | <b>PJ2</b> Peripheral Autonomic Neuropathy: Mixed Picture<br>- Detrusor underactivity or overactivity<br>- Bladder neck obstruction<br>- Reactive pelvic floor muscle dysfunction<br>Anatomic Lesion to Peripheral nerves<br>- Detrusor areflexia<br>- Intrapelvic/autonomic: Intact external urethral sphincter<br>- Pudendal: loss of external sphincter tone |

## Slide 47

---

**PJ1** SUGGEST REPLACING

Sacral/  
conus/  
infrsacral/  
cauda  
equina

WITH

Conus/  
cauda  
equina

Panicker, Jalesh, 2026-03-18T09:45:49.768

**PJ2** Duplication

Panicker, Jalesh, 2026-03-18T09:47:54.093

**PJ3** Pelvic surgery is peripheral and not spinal and hence moved here

Panicker, Jalesh, 2026-03-18T09:48:15.484

**PJ4** Adding a separate heading Peripheral is making this look more complicated- the dysfunction is quite similar between sacral/infrsacral and peripheral

Panicker, Jalesh, 2026-03-18T09:50:38.229

What  
triggers  
suspicion for  
neurological  
factors?

**Screening criteria** for neurological eval in CPP:

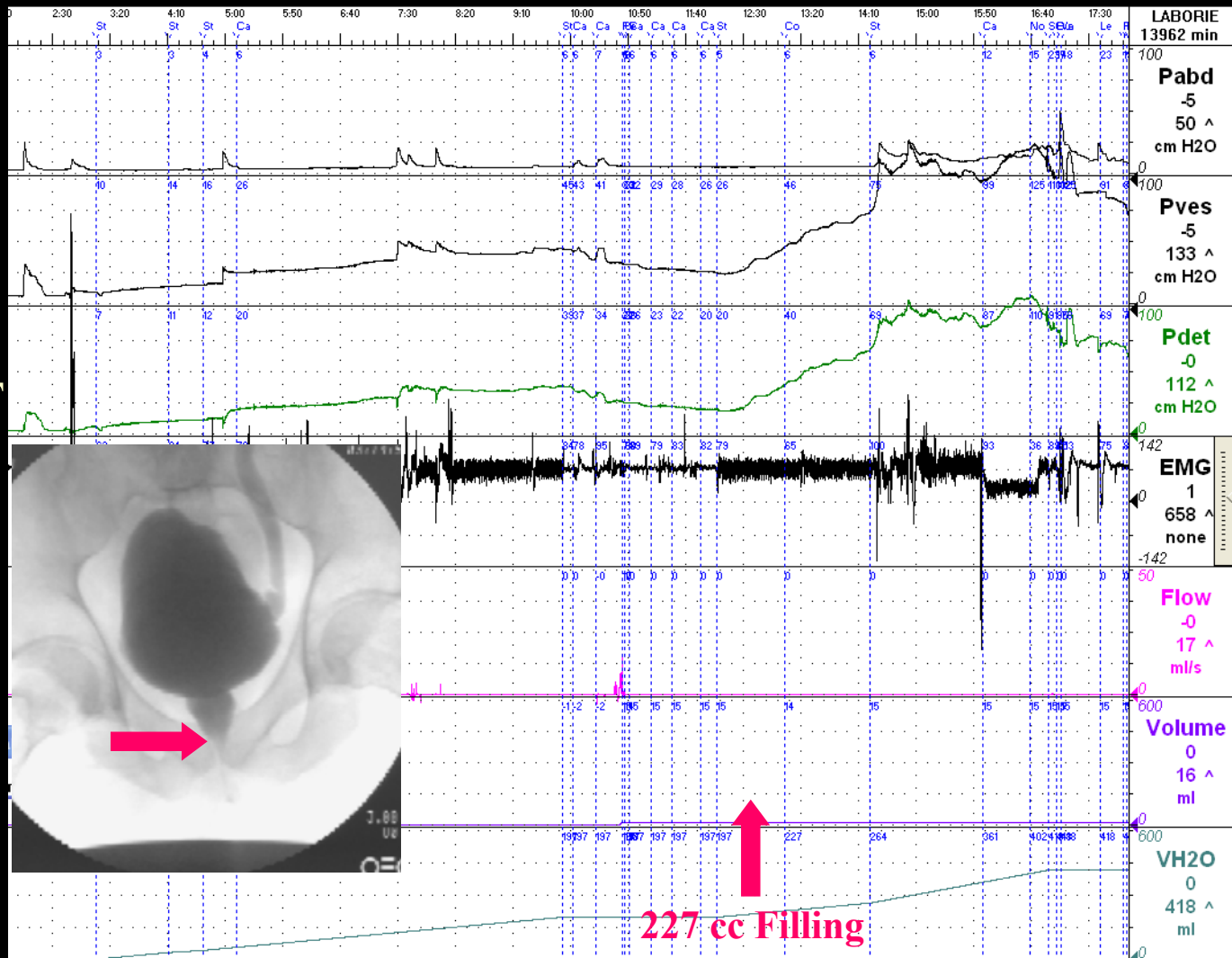
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- Autonomic dysfunction (POTS, IBS, dry eyes, palpitations)
- Chronic Overlapping Pain Conditions (migraines, TMJ, vulvodynia, foot pain)
- Pelvic pain refractory to musculoskeletal and organ-based interventions

# NEUROGENIC DETRUSOR OVERACTIVITY, LEFT VUR, DESD

p ABD

p VES

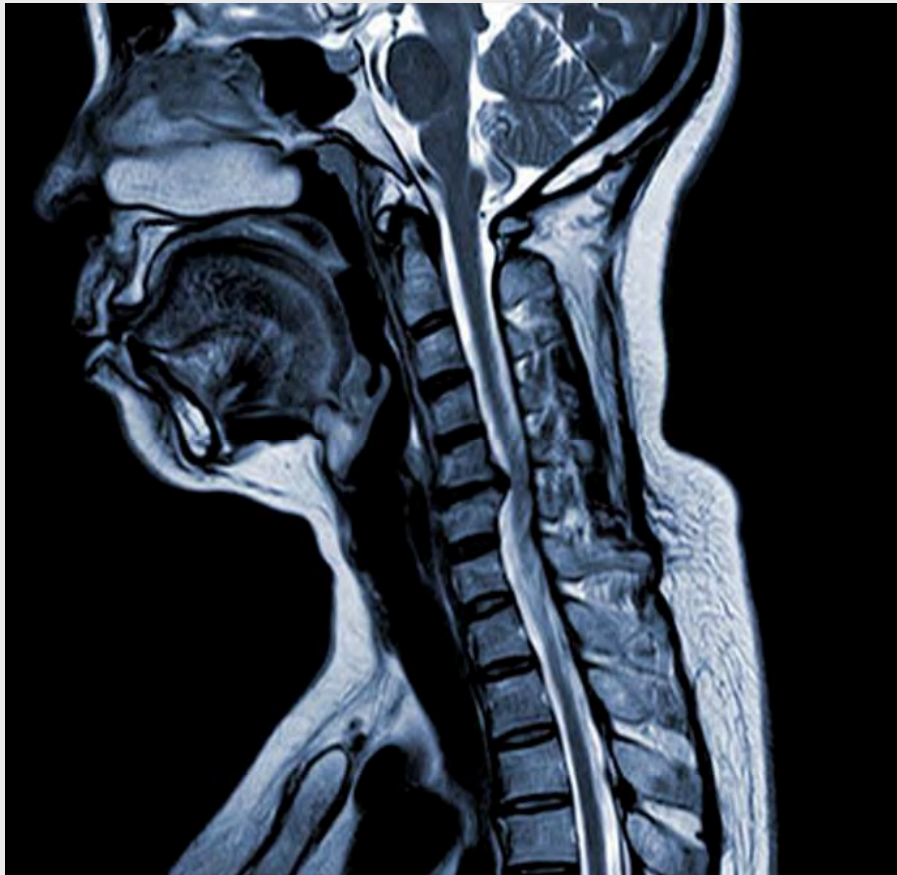
p DET



VOL  
IN

227 cc Filling

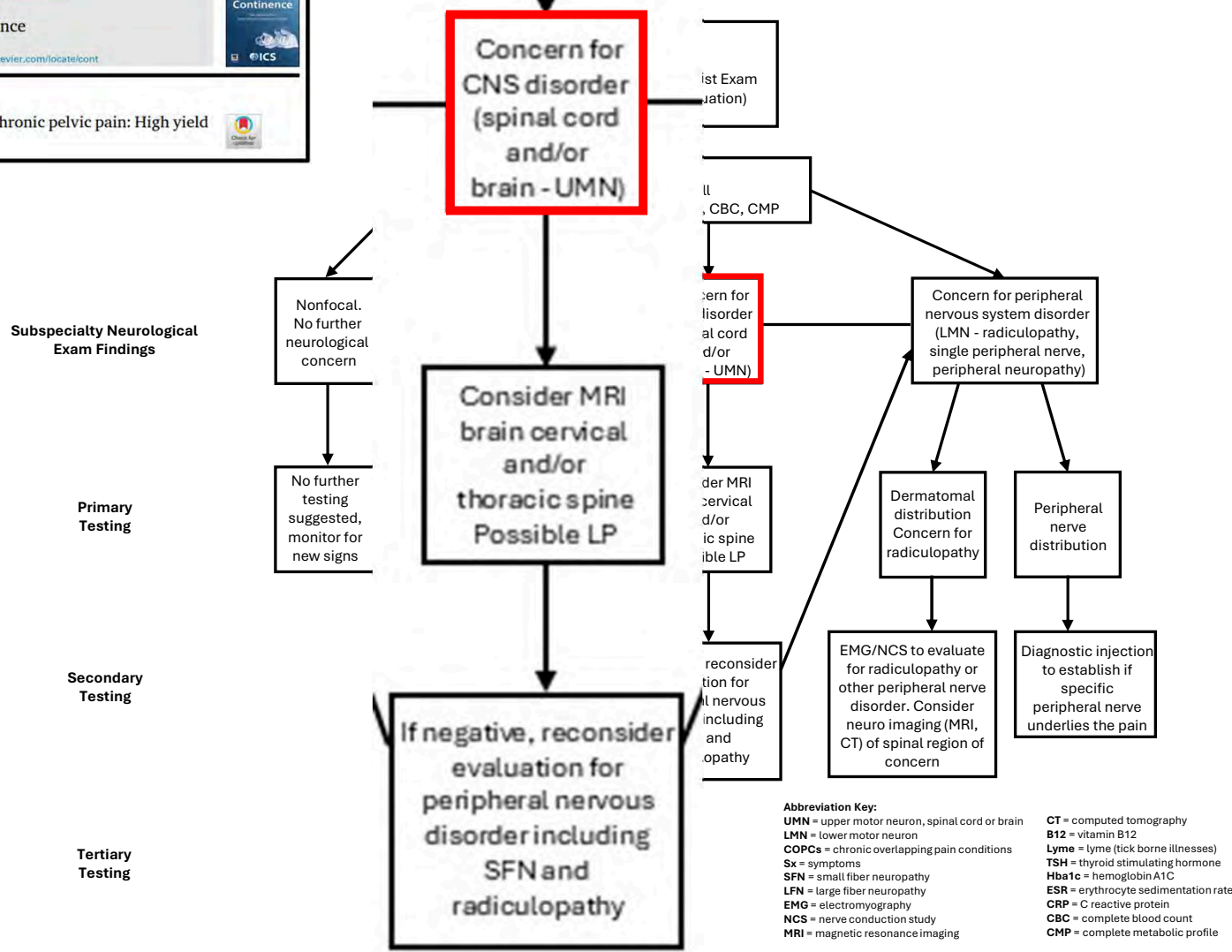
## Central Nervous System – Large Fiber Neuropathy – Reflexes



1. Biceps and Brachioradialis C5/C6
2. Triceps C7
3. Patellar L2-L4
4. Ankle S1



**Figure 2: Neurologist's Diagnostic Algorithm in people with CPP referred by pelvic health for a positive Neurological Screening.**  
 This is a basic guide, not to replace subspecialty neurological evaluation. Copyright retained by the authors.





= autonomic symptom

## Case: Refractory Pain, Plus EDS, Poor GI Motility

- 32 year old female
  - Headaches
  - GERD
  - No PSH
  - G2P1 Vaginal, 7lbs
  - Urgency, Frequency, Pelvic Pressure, Sensation of Incomplete Emptying, Dyspareunia
- *Hesitancy, intermittency, severe dysuria*
- PT unsuccessful
- Bladder neck obstruction on UDS
- Alpha blockers lead to severe dizziness
- Botulinum to bladder neck
  - Severe flare
  - Significant benefit
- Still with pelvic pain and systemic symptoms
- EDS/Hypermobility
- 10 yr constipation - up to 8 wks w/o BM
- Infrequent urge
- Low abdominal bloating/pain
- Multiple hospital presentations
- Tinnitus
- Fibromyalgia
- Co-morbidity
  - 2008/2017 Bereavement counselling
  - 2015 Alcohol Dependence
  - 2016 PCOS
  - 2017 IBS –constipation predominant
  - 2019 Colonoscopy NAD
  - 2019 Raynaud's
- Medications
  - Doxycycline
  - Prucalopride
  - Linaclotide
  - Dolcolax

What  
triggers  
suspicion for  
neurological  
factors?

**Screening criteria** for neurological eval in CPP:

- Pain or weakness in a nerve root, peripheral nerve, or CNS pattern
- Combination of bladder, bowel, sexual, pain sx referable to lumbosacral spine
- Balance or gait alteration, falls
- Abnormal reflexes or weakness on exam
- Upper motor neuron findings or unexplained hypotonia on urodynamics (e.g., neurogenic detrusor overactivity, DESD)
- Autonomic dysfunction (POTS, IBS, dry eyes, palpitations)
- Chronic Overlapping Pain Conditions (migraines, TMJ, vulvodynia, foot pain)
- Pelvic pain refractory to musculoskeletal and organ-based interventions

Differential  
diagnosis-  
Widespread  
Autonomic  
Symptoms and  
Pain

**Rheumatic**

- Arthritis (OA, RA)
- Polymyalgia Rheumatica
- Osteomalacia
- Myopathy
- Spondyloarthropathies
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

**Endocrine**

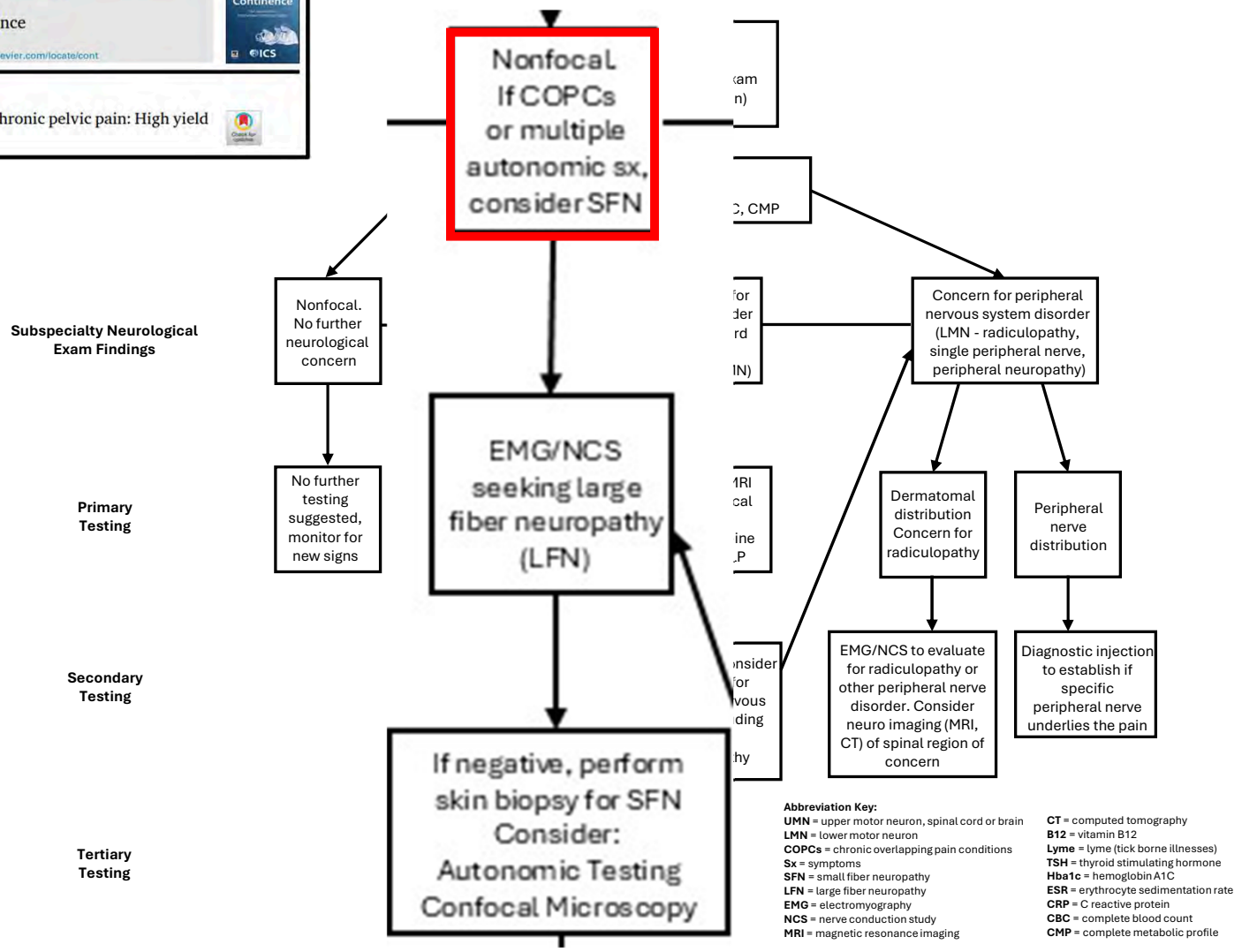
- Hypothyroidism
- Diabetes

**Neurologic**

- Multiple sclerosis
- Chiari malformation
- Spinal stenosis
- Radiculopathy
- Polyneuropathy
- Fibromyalgia
- **SMALL FIBER POLYNEUROPATHY**

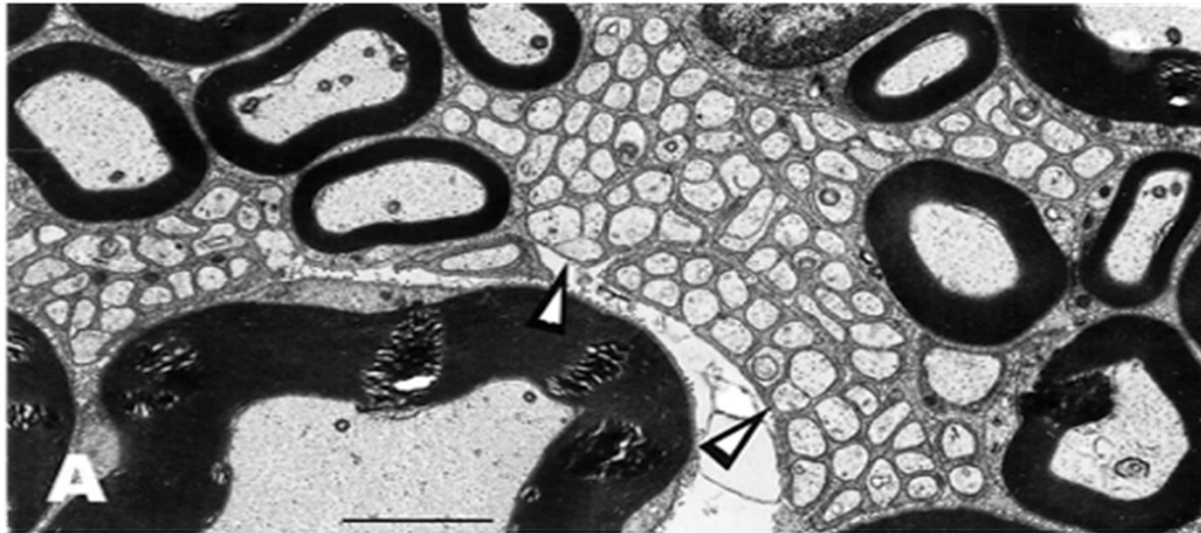


**Figure 2: Neurologist’s Diagnostic Algorithm in people with CPP referred by pelvic health for a positive Neurological Screening.** This is a basic guide, not to replace subspecialty neurological evaluation. Copyright retained by the authors.



## Small Fiber Polyneuropathy

Diabetes, Lyme Disease, Gluten Allergy, Sarcoid, Chemotherapeutics, Antibiotics



Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology Vol. 63, No. 3

Courtesy Khosro Farhad

| Sensory Fiber type              | Diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | Velocity (m/s) | Function                                              |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| A- $\delta$ (Thinly myelinated) | 1-5                        | 3-30           | Light touch, acute pain and cold temperature          |
| C (Unmyelinated)                | <1                         | <2             | Slow pain and heat , post-ganglionic autonomic fibers |

Small fiber neuropathy occurs when injury to the peripheral nerves predominantly or entirely affects the small myelinated (A $\delta$ ) or unmyelinated C fibers

# Diffuse Pain Suggests a Systemic Process

## Brief Research Report

### Small Fiber Polyneuropathy Is Prevalent in Patients Experiencing Complex Chronic Pelvic Pain

Annie Chen, BA,\* Elise De, MD,<sup>1,†</sup> and Charles Argoff, MD<sup>2</sup>

Results. Twenty-five of 39 patients (64%) were positive for SFPN. Comorbid conditions noted in our population included gastroesophageal reflux disease.

Pain Medicine 2018 doi:  
10.1092/pm/pny001

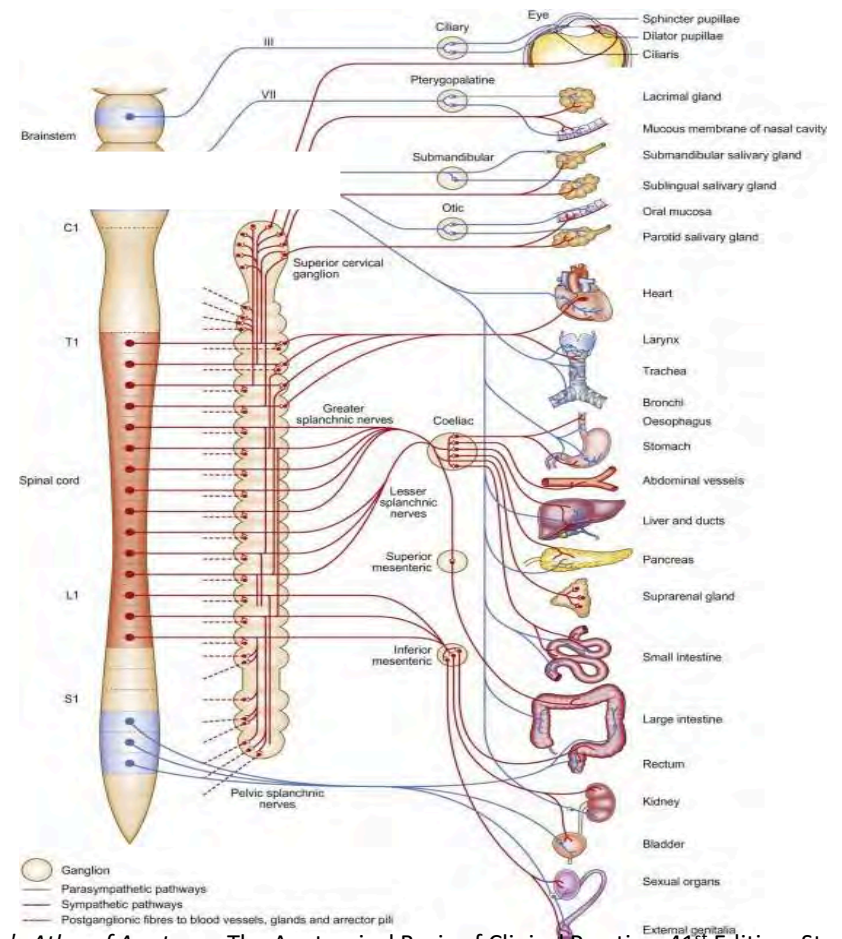
**64% (25 of 39) of patients with complex pelvic pain had + biopsy for SFPN**

**Table 6** Comorbidities in the current population with complex CPP (N = 39) by patient report or chart documentation

#### Comorbidities

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| GERD                         | 46% |
| Migraine                     | 38% |
| IBS                          | 33% |
| Lower back pain              | 33% |
| FM                           | 28% |
| Endometriosis                | 15% |
| IC                           | 18% |
| Vulvodynia                   | 5%  |
| Other chronic pain syndromes | 36% |

CPP = chronic pelvic pain; FM = fibromyalgia; GERD = gastroesophageal reflux disease; IBS = irritable bowel syndrome; IC = interstitial cystitis.



Gray's Atlas of Anatomy. The Anatomical Basis of Clinical Practice. 41<sup>st</sup> Edition. Standring, Susan MBE, PhD, DSc, FRC, Hon FRCS. Elsevier Limited. Gray's Anatomy. Standring, Susan, MBE, PhD, DSc, FRC, Hon FAS, Hon FRCS. Published January 1, 2016. Pages 225-237.e3. © 2016. Fig. 16.11

# Small Fiber Neuropathy Causes

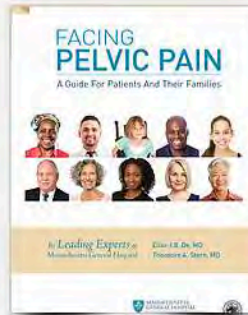
- **Metabolic** : Diabetes, borderline diabetes, thyroid dysfunction (untreated)
- **Autoimmune/inflammatory**: Sjogren's, SLE, RA, sarcoidosis, vasculitis, IBD, others
- **Vitamin/micronutrient related**: B12, B6, B1, E & copper deficiencies / B6 Toxicity
- **Celiac disease and gluten sensitivity, Mast Cell Activation Syndrome**
- **Toxic agents**: Chemotherapeutic agents (Platinum, Taxans, Bortezomib, Vinca Alkaloids), antibiotics (Nitrofurantoin, TMP-SMX, Fluoroquinolones), anti HIV meds, gout meds (Colchicine, Allopurinol), heavy metals (lead, arsenic, mercury, thallium), alcohol
- **Infectious agents**: Lyme, HIV, HSV, VZV, CMV, HCV, HBV, Leprosy
- **Monoclonal gammopathy and paraneoplastic**
- **Amyloidosis**
- **Genetic**: Sodium channel mutations (SCN9A, SCN10A, SCN11A), EDS, other genetic
- **Idiopathic (30-50%)**

Free Multidisciplinary One-Stop Resource  
Providers and Patients  
[www.facingpelvicpain.org](http://www.facingpelvicpain.org)



Finding a specialist experienced specifically in pelvic pain can be challenging. But, don't give up! Here are some databases that will help you find the right medical care provider in your area (click the links below):

- [American Urogynecological Society \(AUGS\)](#)
- [American College of Ob-Gyn](#)
- [American Physical Therapy Association](#)
- [Herman Wallace Institute](#)
- [Global Pelvic Health Alliance](#)
- [Endometriosis Association](#)
- [International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders](#)
- [Interstitial Cystitis Network](#)
- [Interstitial Cystitis Association](#)
- [International Pelvic Pain Society](#)
- [Vulvodynia Association](#)
- [Vulvar Pain Foundation](#)
- [Pudendal Neuralgia Association](#)
- [Neuropathy Cammons](#)



I need this book! >

#### Tell Me More!

Other Websites Helpful in Pelvic Pain and Pelvic Floor Conditions:

- [World Federation for Incontinence and Pelvic Problems](#)
- [Urology Care Foundation](#)
- [Harvard Medical School Patient Education Center](#)
- [Continence Product Advisor](#)

**Elise De, MD**

@facingpelvicpain



# Cystectomy for Bladder Pain Syndrome: A Two-Case Clinical Approach

## CASE 1

**Always Do:**  
Determine Pelvic Pain is  
from Bladder Prior to Cystectomy

## CASE 2

**Never Miss:**  
Pyocystis after Cystectomy  
With Persistent Pelvic Pain

**Brian M. Inouye, MD**

Associate Professor of Urology | Albany Medical Center

Reconstructive Urology & GU Cancer Survivorship | @BrianInouyeMD

# Disclosures

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Laborie: Consultant

# Learning Objectives

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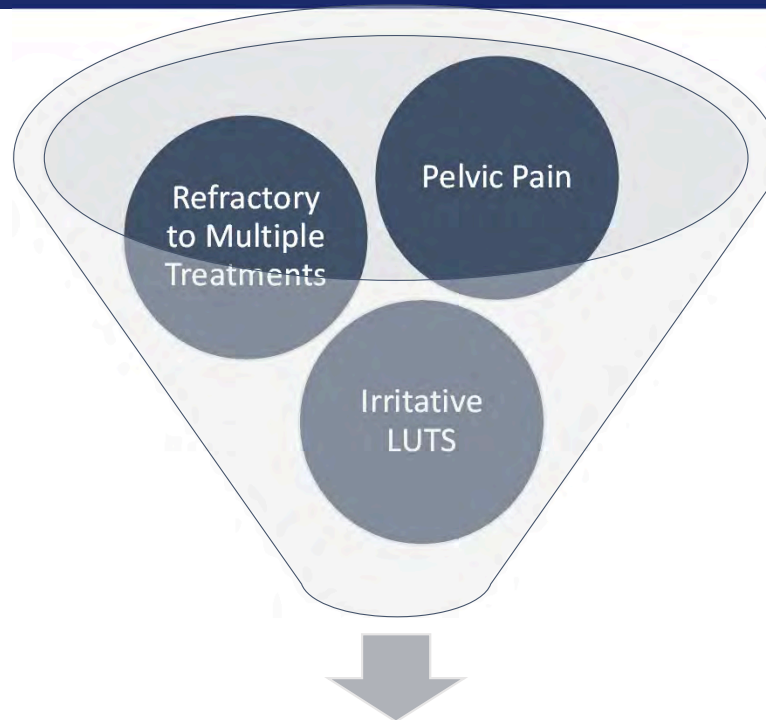
## Case 1 — End-Stage IC/BPS

- Recognize critical importance of confirming bladder-origin pain before proceeding to cystectomy
- Apply the preoperative workup framework: PROMs, cystoscopy, urodynamics
- Identify good and poor prognostic factors for pain relief
- Understand my technique for supratrigonal cystectomy + ileal conduit

## Case 2 — Persistent Pain After Cystectomy

- Construct a differential and workup for post-cystectomy persistent pelvic pain
- Recognize pyocystitis as a diagnosis, its pathogenesis, incidence, and clinical presentation
- Discuss management options including antibiotic therapy, irrigation, and salvage cystectomy

# Always Do!



Always Determine Symptoms are from  
Bladder Prior to Cystectomy

CASE 1

**End-Stage IC/BPS:  
Is the Pain in the  
Bladder?**

A 75yo Female with a 3-year history of refractory interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome, having failed medical management, cysto fulguration x3, bladder botox, presents for surgical evaluation due to persistent pain, irritative LUTS, gross hematuria.

In last five years has seen 2 general urologists and 2 URPS-fellowship trained urologists.

Here to discuss cystectomy.

Before We Operate:

**"Is the Pain Truly From the  
Bladder?"**

---

**PATIENT SELECTION IS KEY**

# Workup: History & Risk Stratification

## Initial 1-hour consultation

- Co-morbidities requiring perioperative management:
  - Immunosuppression — must optimize prior to surgery
  - Smoking — cessation required
  - Obesity — BMI <34 associated with better outcomes
- Social history — support system for ostomy management
- NSQIP Risk Calculator — give estimate to patient at visit
- Patient completes PROMs

> J Urol. 2023 Jan;209(1):111-120. doi: 10.1097/JU.0000000000002988. Epub 2022 Oct 11.

## Obesity and Complication Risk From Radical Cystectomy: Identifying a Body Mass Index Threshold

Louise Catherine McLoughlin<sup>1 2 3</sup>, Wassim Kassouf<sup>4</sup>, Rodney H Breau<sup>5</sup>, Adrian Fairey<sup>6</sup>, Ramanakumar Agnihotram V<sup>7</sup>, Afsar Salimi<sup>8</sup>, Eric Hyndman<sup>9</sup>, Darrel E Drachenberg<sup>10</sup>, Jonathan Izawa<sup>11</sup>, Bobby Shayegan<sup>12</sup>, Jean-Baptiste Lattouf<sup>13</sup>, Michele Lodde<sup>14</sup>, Ricardo Rendon<sup>15</sup>, D Robert Siemens<sup>16</sup>, Claudio Jeldres<sup>17</sup>, Peter C Black<sup>18</sup>, Girish S Kulkarni<sup>1</sup>

ACS NSQIP<sup>®</sup> | Surgical Risk Calculator | ACS AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Home About FAQ ACS Website ACS NSQIP Website

Enter Patient and Surgical Information

Procedure 51590 - Cystectomy, complete, with ureteroileal conduit or sigmoid bladder, including intestine anastomosis; Clear

**Build patient rapport!**  
**Minimum 3 in-person visits (one multi-d) before OR**

# Workup: Localizing the Pain to the Bladder

## Patient-Reported Outcomes Measures

- ICSI/ICPI (score 0-20, 0-16, LUTS/QoL)
  - BPS diagnosis threshold: ICSI  $\geq 4$
  - Surgical consideration: ICSI  $\geq 7$
- GUPI (score 0-45, assesses pain/LUTS/QoL)
  - No studies to establish threshold for treatment
- SF-12: Physical & Mental Composite Scores

## Objective Localization

- Awake vs. asleep cystoscopy
  - Hunner lesions: 28/34 (82%) with lesions had symptom resolution vs. 3/13 (23%) without (Rössberger et al., 2007)
- Urodynamics
  - Pain reproduced on CMG or pressure-flow study confirms bladder origin
- Local anesthetic bladder instillation
  - Temporary relief = favorable prognostic sign

*Also obtain: Cross-sectional imaging (hernia, hydronephrosis) | Albumin | Urine culture*

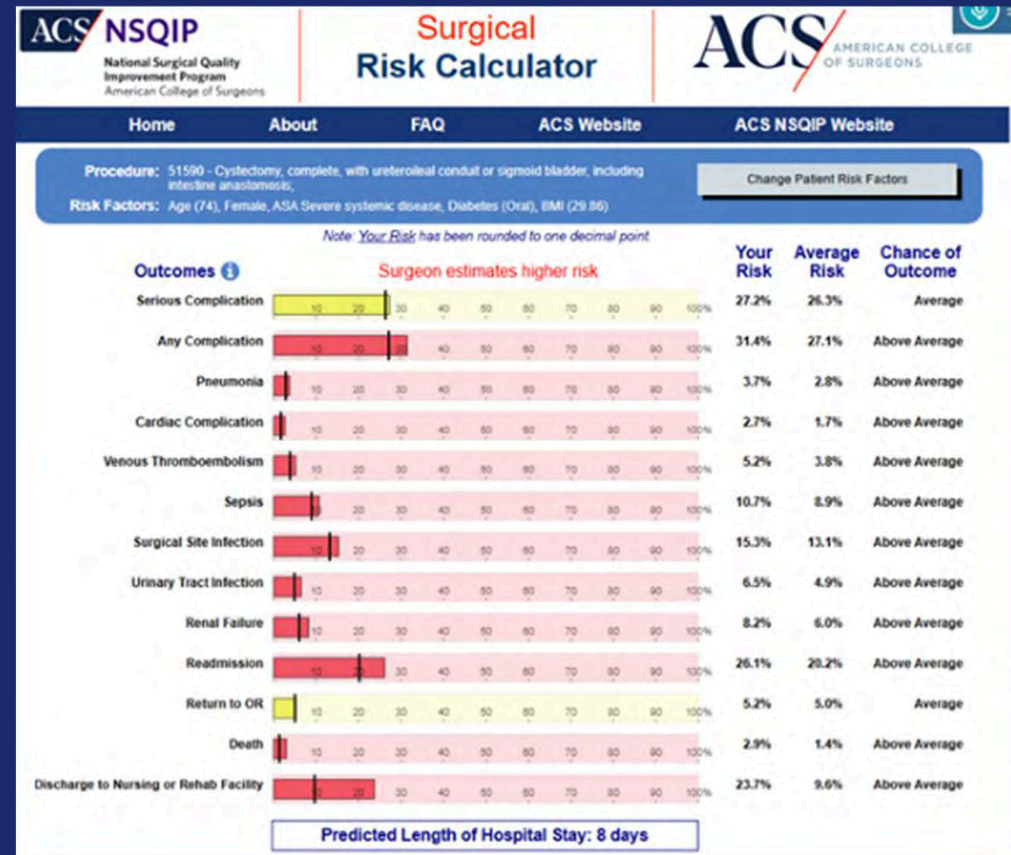
# Case 1: Key Findings During Workup

## Healthy-ish and Bothered

- Only major co-morbidity: DM
- BMI: 29 | Albumin: 4.1
- ICSI score: 13 (threshold  $\geq 7$  for surgical consideration)
- SF-12 PCS: 27.7 / MCS: 50.7

## Pain Localized to Bladder

- Cystoscopy: Small capacity, pain, +Hunner's lesions
- Bladder capacity under anesthesia: n/a
- Urodynamics: Increased sensation, normal compliance, reduced capacity secondary to pain with bilateral VUR



# Prognostic Factors: Who Does Well?

## ✓ FAVORABLE

- **Must have EXHAUSTED all other treatment options**
- Hunner lesions present
  - 82% vs 23% symptom resolution (Rössberger 2007)
- End-stage fibrotic bladder (small capacity under anesthesia)
  - <200cc under anesthesia: 100% improvement with diversion (Redmond & Flood, 2017)
- Temporary pain relief with local anesthetic instillation

## ✗ UNFAVORABLE

- No Hunner lesions
- Large bladder capacity under anesthesia
- Long preoperative symptom duration
  - Pain after surgery: 12.1 yrs preop symptoms vs 5.4 yrs in improved patients (p=0.02)
- Unaddressed mental health / central sensitization
- Inadequate preoperative multidisciplinary team engagement

# You Need a Team

- Primary Care
  - Pain Management
  - Neurology
  - Psychiatry / Psychology
  - Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
  - Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy
- Neuro-Urologist
  - Geriatrician
  - Wound Ostomy Nursing
  - Infectious Disease (as needed)
  - Nutrition / Dietetics



Charles Argoff, MD  
Neurology



Elise De, MD  
Neuro-urology



Andy Coates, MD  
Geriatrics

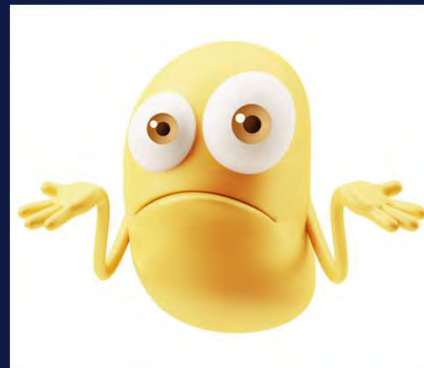


Jody Scardillo, DNP  
Wound Ostomy

Before We Operate:

**“Which Surgical Option Should We Choose?”**

---



# Surgical Options: Comparing Approaches

## Supratrigonal Cystectomy + Augmentation

### PRO

Orthotopic voiding  
No ureteral work

77% combined success  
(170 pts, 11 studies)

### CON

Metabolic changes  
Risk of perforation  
Possible CIC  
Persistent bladder

## Diversion Without Cystectomy

### PRO

Fastest procedure

77% combined success  
(70 patients, 4 studies)

### CON

Persistent bladder  
Need for ostomy appliance/cathing  
Ureteral work

23% required secondary cystectomy for pyocystitis or pain

## Cystectomy + Ileal Conduit (My Preference)

### PRO

Bladder removed

81% combined success  
(26 pts, 4 studies)

### CON

Need for ostomy appliance/cathing  
Ureteral work  
Longer procedure

**Even 34 high-volume BPS surgeons did not agree! (Gershbaum, Moldwin 2001)**

# My BPS Cystectomy + Ileal Conduit: Preoperative

---

- Perioperative antibiotics
  - Urine culture-directed, or cefazolin
- DVT prophylaxis: Heparin + SCDs
- Positioning
  - Supine (add frog-leg for urethral catheter in females)
- Tubes: Cap PCNs if present — leave perioperatively
- Skin prep: Chlorhexidine + isopropyl alcohol (ChloraPrep)

# How I Do the Cystectomy

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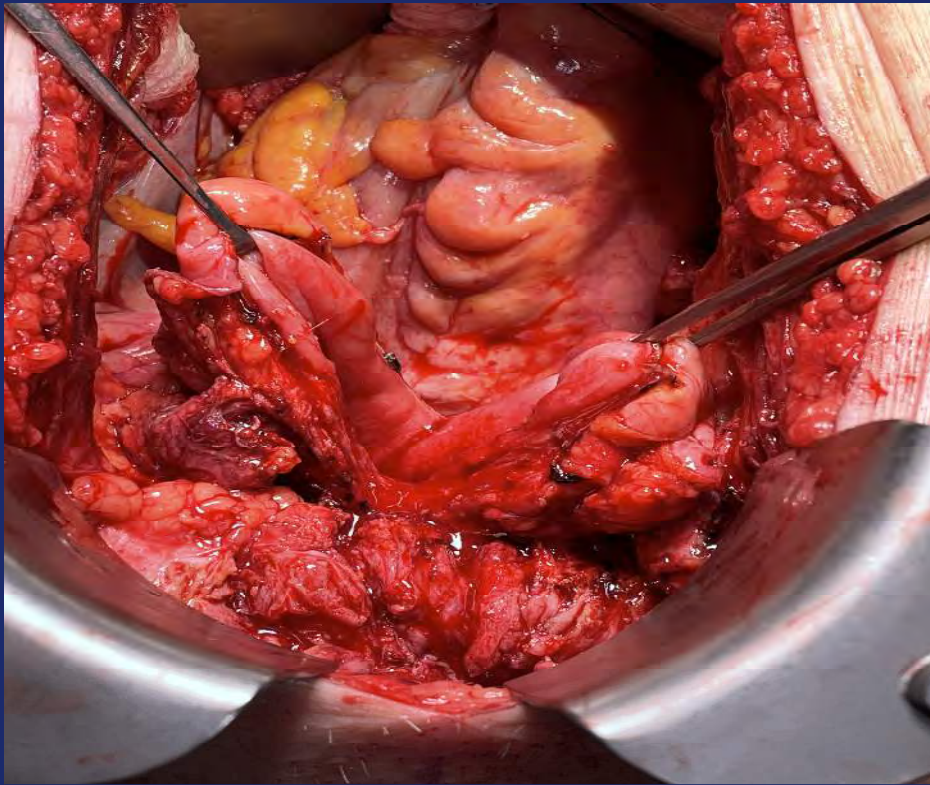
## Choice of approach

- Simple cystectomy: if not inflamed and can create retrovesical plane
- Supratrigonal cystectomy: significant inflammation, history of XRT / vaginal / bowel surgery

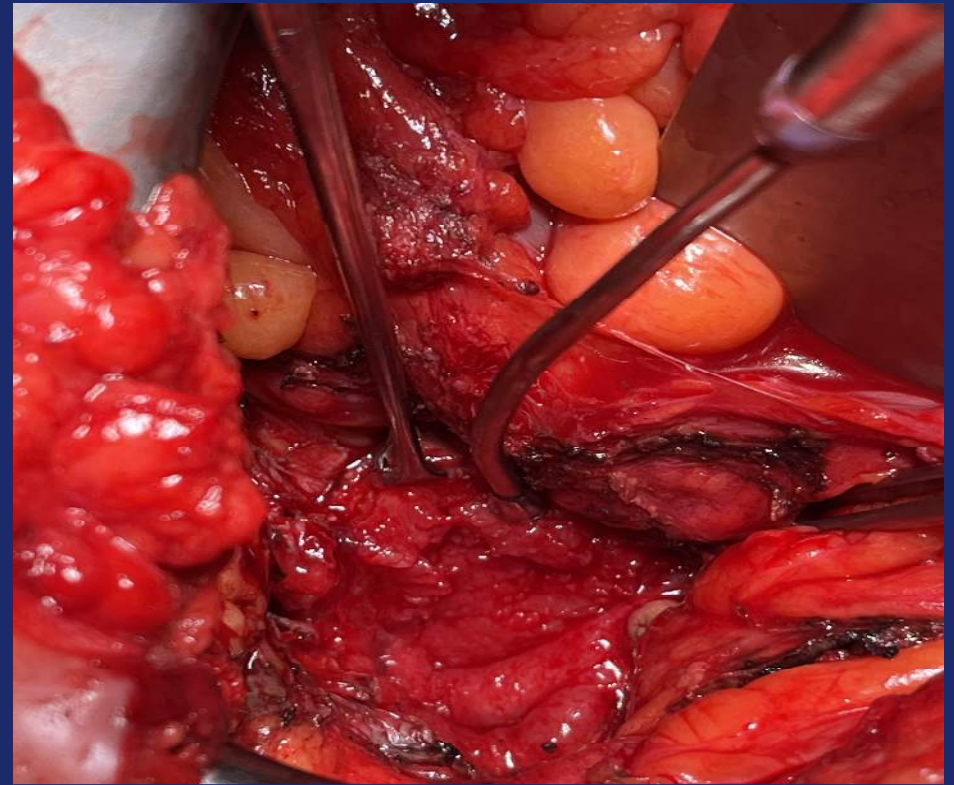
## Supratrigonal technique

- Drop bladder, free posterior peritoneum
- Bivalve anterior then posterior bladder wall
- Remove bladder wings and any remaining posterior wall
- Sharply denude OR ablate remaining subtrigonal urothelium
- Close remaining detrusor to prevent postop leakage
- Omental or posterior peritoneal flap to fill pelvic fossa
- Ureters: Diagnostic bilateral ureteroscopy → Wallace anastomosis for ileal conduit

## Intraoperative: Dropping the Bladder / Bivalve



**Dropping bladder, freeing posterior peritoneum**



**Bivalve — anterior & posterior bladder walls**

# Intraoperative: Removing Bladder Wings & Posterior Wall



Removing bladder wings



Ablating remaining urothelium

# How I Manage Ureters

## Step 1: Diagnostic bilateral ureteroscopy

- Evaluate urothelium prior to diversion

## Step 2: Wallace anastomosis for ileal conduit



# My BPS Cystectomy + Ileal Conduit: Postoperative

---

- ERAS protocol
- Typical LOS: 5–7 days
  
- Post-op visit: 2 weeks after discharge
- Remove ureteral stents at 2-week visit
  
- 1-month follow-up:
  - BMP, B12, Renal US, PROMs

# Case 1: Postoperative Course Usually Rocky

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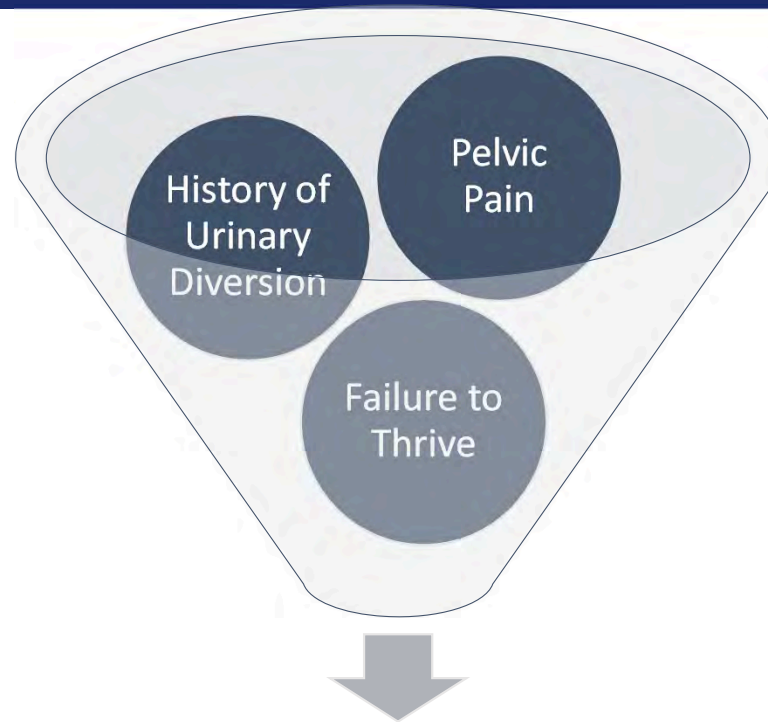
## Postoperative course:

- POD 7: Discharged
- POD 28: ED presentation after slipping on bath mat and admitted for broken hip requiring surgery. Discharged to rehab 3 days later.
- POD 84: ED presentation for chills found to have UTI. New hydro with neg Lasix renal scan. Discharged 2 days later.

## Teaching point: What made this patient the right candidate?

- Bothered
- Hunner lesions
- Small capacity bladder with reflux

# Never Miss!



Rule Out Pyocystis

CASE 2

**Persistent Pain  
After Cystectomy:  
Workup for Pyocystis**

A 70yo Male presents to ED with prior supratrigonal cystectomy + ileal conduit for IC/BPS presents with 3 months of recurrent/persistent pelvic pain, urethral discharge, failure to thrive.

## Case 2: What to Do Next?

### Differential

- UTI/Pyelo
- Wound infection
- Pelvic hematoma/seroma
- Abscess
- Metabolic acidosis
- Pyocystis
- Osteomyelitis
- Bladder spasms
- Urothelial carcinoma
- Pelvic floor dysfunction

### What to Do?

- Physical Exam: Normal
- UA/UCx: Mixed flora
- WBC: 13
- Blood cultures: Negative
- CT:



# What Is Pyocystis?

---

## **Pyocystis (also: vesical empyema, empyema cystis)**

- Infected, pus-filled defunctionalized bladder — a severe form of lower UTI

## **Pathogenesis**

- Without urine flow, shed bladder epithelium accumulates and becomes infected
- Also: retrograde prostatic secretion pooling (men), osmotic water transfer

## **At-risk populations**

- Supravesical urinary diversion with bladder left in situ (IC, neurogenic, radiation, hemorrhagic cystitis)
- End-stage renal disease with anuria
  - Higher risk: dialysis patients, immunosuppressed, prior *Proteus mirabilis*

# Pyocystis: Incidence & Why It Matters

**24%**

Pyocystis incidence after ileal conduit for benign disease

*Mankaryous et al. / ICS 2018 (n=81)*

**38%**

Pyocystis incidence in updated cohort

*ICS 2021 (n=106 pts, 1998–2019)*

**95%**

of pyocystis cases ultimately required cystectomy

*Conservative Tx almost always fails (ICS 2018)*

**3–67%**

Reported incidence range across populations

*Up to 67% in previously irradiated bladders*

*Onset typically at 42 months post-diversion (range 1–408 months) — always consider in late presentations*

# Pyocystis: Clinical Presentation

---

## Classic symptom triad (ICS 2021 cohort, n=40 pyocystis cases):

- Urethral discharge — malodorous, purulent
  - 92.5% of pyocystis patients in ICS 2021 cohort
- Suprapubic pain with bladder spasms
  - 57.5% of patients (ICS 2021)
- Fevers / systemic sepsis
  - 30% developed acute infection or sepsis — can be fatal

## Key clinical pearl:

- Patient or team may be unaware bladder remains in situ — always confirm anatomy before dismissing the bladder as a source in unexplained sepsis after diversion

# Workup: Ruling Out Pyocystis

## Step 1: Labs

CBC (leukocytosis)  
CRP / ESR  
Blood cultures  
BMP / renal function

## Step 2: Imaging

CT abdomen/pelvis  
— Thickened bladder wall  
— Fluid-debris level  
— Pelvic collection  
  
Renal ultrasound

## Step 3: Cystoscopy of Remnant

Direct visualization  
  
Biopsy to rule out  
malignancy in  
dysfunctionalized bladder

## Step 4: Drain Remnant

Urethral or SP catheter  
  
Drain purulent content and  
send for:  
Culture  
Cytology

*Consider malignancy in the dysfunctionalized bladder — risk increases over time without surveillance*

# Management of Pyocystis

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## **Conservative (for mild/initial presentation)**

- Broad-spectrum IV antibiotics (culture-directed when available)
- Urethral or suprapubic catheter drainage of remnant bladder
- Intermittent bladder irrigation / washout

---

## **Definitive (conservative almost always fails)**

- Remnant bladder cystectomy — required in 95% of pyocystis cases (ICS 2018)

## Case 2: Long-Term Drains Sometimes Work

---

### Course:

- Cysto normal
- Perc drain by IR x4w with abx x6w
- Resolved, no recurrence

### Teaching point: Even with history of pelvic pain, think infectious etiology after cystectomy

- Cysto and CT are mainstays of workup

# Key Takeaways

## CASE 1

- **Patient selection is KEY**
- Confirm bladder-origin pain before operating
- Hunner lesions: major favorable prognostic factor
- No best surgical technique for BPS
- Get a multidisciplinary team

## CASE 2

- **Always confirm bladder anatomy after diversion**
- Diagnosis of pyocystitis: CT, cysto, catheter drainage + culture, cystoscopy
- Treat conservatively but ultimately may require extirpative therapy

**Thank You!**

**Questions?**  
**[inouyeb@amc.edu](mailto:inouyeb@amc.edu)**



**AUA**  
**2026**  
Washington, DC

MAY 15-18

**Always do Targeted therapies  
for Chronic Scrotal Content Pain**



**Never miss Upper Tract  
Pathology**

**Sijo Parekattil MD**

Avant Concierge Urology

Associate Professor, University of Central Florida

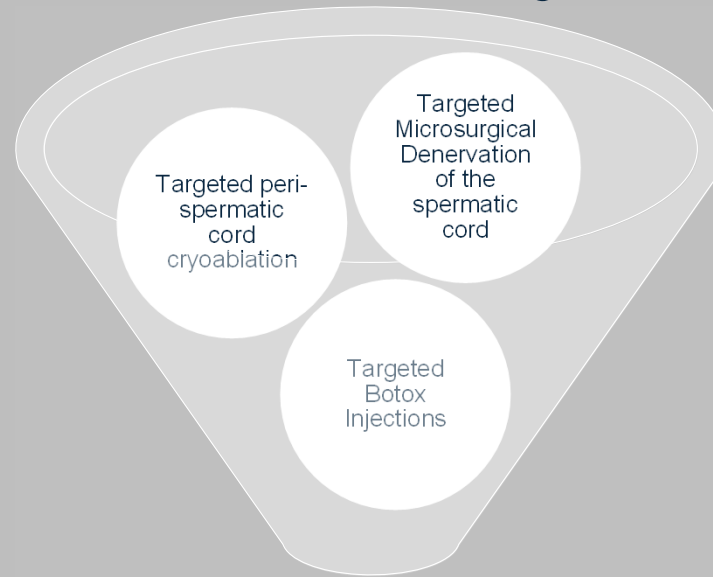
Associate Professor, Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine

Past President, Florida Urological Society

# Disclosures

None

# Case – Always Do



Always Perform Targeted Therapies  
rather than extirpative surgeries



## Case 1: Neuropathic Chronic Orchialgia

- 42 y/o male with chronic right testicular & groin pain since 2001, dull achiness in the testicle, more pronounced in the right epididymis
- Scrotal ultrasound: left varicocele
- CT abdomen/pelvis: negative
- s/p Right spermatic cord block – gave him temporary relief in his pain for a few hours
- COSI score: P15/17 S0/5 Q8/15

# Pathophysiology

- Wallerian degeneration in peripheral nerves has been previously identified as a cause of chronic pain in other areas of the body such as the extremities<sup>1</sup>
- Thus, the ligation, ablation or neuro-modulation of these nerve fibers may explain the benefit of various targeted therapies in CSP patients
- Oka et al.<sup>2</sup> have performed an eloquent study illustrating the complex innervation of the spermatic cord - interplay of nerve branches from ilioinguinal, ilio-hypogastric, genitofemoral and inferior hypogastric nerves

<sup>1</sup>Ko et al., Int J Mol Sci. 2015

<sup>2</sup>Oka et al., J Urol. 2016

# Pathophysiology

- Parekattil et al.,<sup>1</sup> identified a trifecta nerve complex that may explain the rationale for pain in CSP patients
  - Study compared spermatic cord biopsy specimens of men undergoing MDSC (57 cases) for CSP versus a control group of men without pain undergoing spermatic cord surgery (10 cases: 4 varicocelectomies and 6 radical orchiectomies)
    - **84%** (48/57) of the CSP patients had Wallerian degeneration in at least one or more of these nerves
    - Only **20%** of the control group patients (2/10) had Wallerian degeneration, (**p=0.0008**)

<sup>1</sup>Parekattil et al., J Urol. 2013

# Pathophysiology

- 3 primary locations (the trifecta nerve complex) for these changes:<sup>1</sup>
  - cremasteric muscle fibers
  - peri-vasal tissues and vasal sheath, and
  - posterior cord lipomatous tissues
- 3 human cadaver spermatic cord dissections were performed to confirm localization of the nerve distribution identified on pathology mapping<sup>1</sup>
- This is the first study to actually define a significant structural difference in the spermatic cord neuro-anatomy between CSP patients and non-CSP controls<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Parekattil et al., J Urol. 2013

# COSI Score

## Chronic Orchialgia Symptom Index

### Pain Symptoms

1. When you have testicle pain, do you also feel it in your groin (area above testicle)?  
No \_\_ (0) Yes \_\_ (1)

2. Would you describe your testicle pain as burning?  
No \_\_ (0) Yes \_\_ (1)

3. Does your testicular pain wake you up at night?  
Never \_\_ (0), Sometimes \_\_ (1) Always \_\_ (2)

4. In the past week how often did you feel pain in your testicle?  
Never \_\_ (0), Occasionally \_\_ (1), Usually \_\_ (2), Always \_\_ (3)

5. What number best describes your MINIMUM (lowest) testicle pain in the past week?  
0\_\_ 1\_\_ 2\_\_ 3\_\_ 4\_\_ 5\_\_  
None Mild Worst pain imaginable

6. What number best describes your MAXIMUM (highest) testicle pain in the past week?  
0\_\_ 1\_\_ 2\_\_ 3\_\_ 4\_\_ 5\_\_  
None Mild Worst pain imaginable

### Sexual Symptoms

7. In the past week how often have you had difficulty achieving or maintaining an erection?  
Never (eg. you have normal erections) \_\_ (0), Sometimes \_\_ (1), Always \_\_ (2)

8. In the past week, has your desire to have sex (libido) been lower than normal for you?  
No \_\_ (0), Yes \_\_ (1)

9. In the past week have sexual activities been painful?  
No \_\_ (0), Sometimes \_\_ (1), Always \_\_ (2)

### Quality of Life

10. In the past week, how much has your testicular pain prevented you from working or doing your normal daytime activities?  
0\_\_ 1\_\_ 2\_\_ 3\_\_ 4\_\_ 5\_\_  
None A little Sometimes Often Usually Completely

11. In the past week, how much has your testicular pain prevented you from doing leisure activities you enjoy?  
0\_\_ 1\_\_ 2\_\_ 3\_\_ 4\_\_ 5\_\_  
None A little Sometimes Often Usually Completely

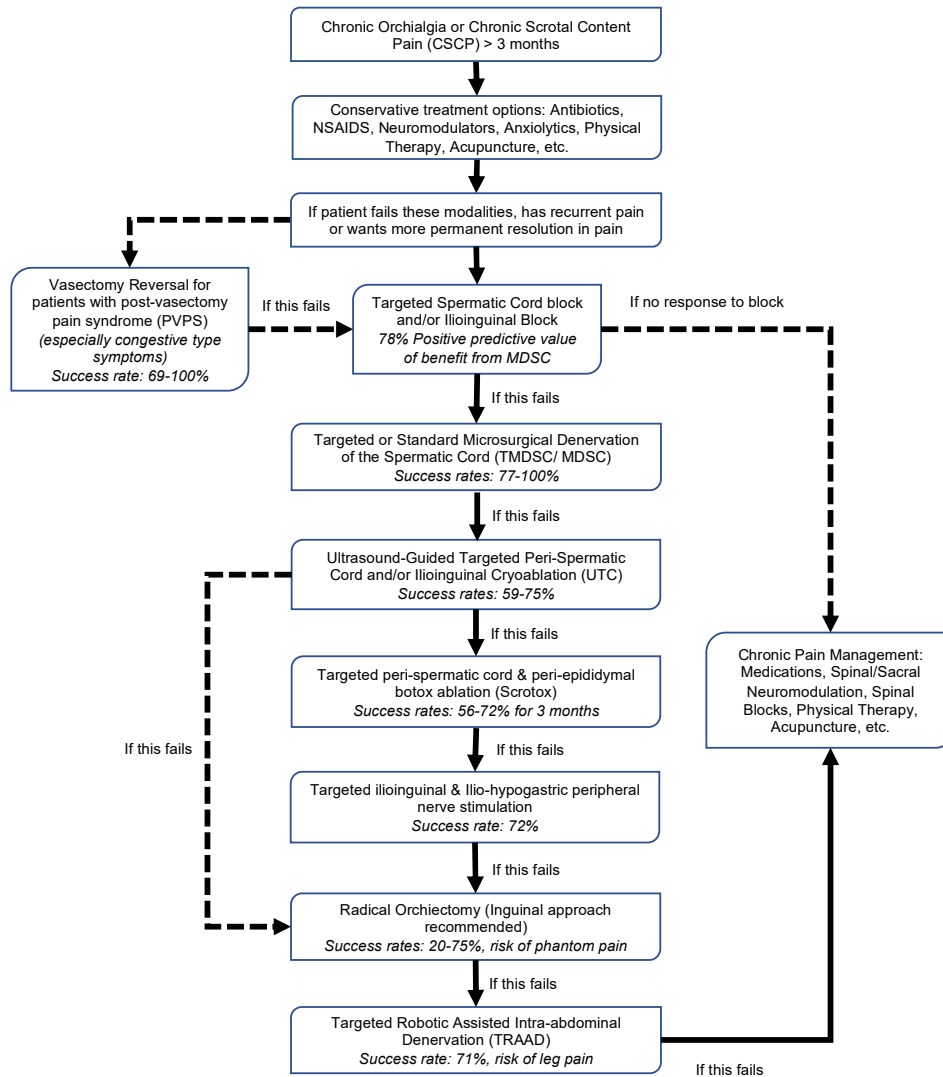
12. If nothing changed and your symptoms remained this way for the rest of your life, how would you feel?  
0\_\_ 1\_\_ 2\_\_ 3\_\_ 4\_\_ 5\_\_  
Delighted Pleased Mostly Satisfied Mixed Unhappy Miserable

Score: Pain (Q 1-6) \_\_ Sexual (Q 7-9) \_\_ QOL (Q 10-12) \_\_

Shoskes DA et al. *Urology* 2018;119:39–43.  
Shoskes DA et al. *J Urol* 2018;199(S4):e1159.  
Polackwich et al., *Transl Androl Urol*. 2018

# Treatment Algorithm<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Parekattil et al.,  
Research and Reports  
in Urology 2020



Posterior inferior scrotal denervation

Low intensity shock wave lithotripsy



## Office based Targeted Microsurgical Denervation of the spermatic cord

- Retrospectively review:
  - 244 cases who underwent office based targeted microsurgical denervation (OTMDSC) of the spermatic cord from November 2020 to October 2024
  - Median follow-up of 20 months (range 1 to 29)
  - **84%** showed a significant reduction in pain
    - 62% had complete resolution in pain
    - 22% had 50% or > reduction in pain
  - 16% had no change in pain by subjective visual analog scale scoring

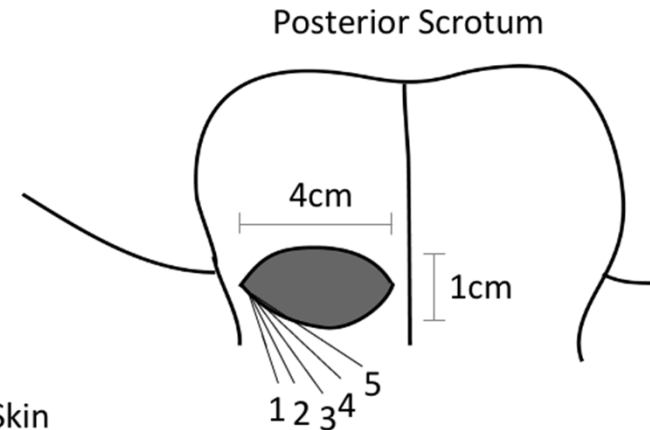
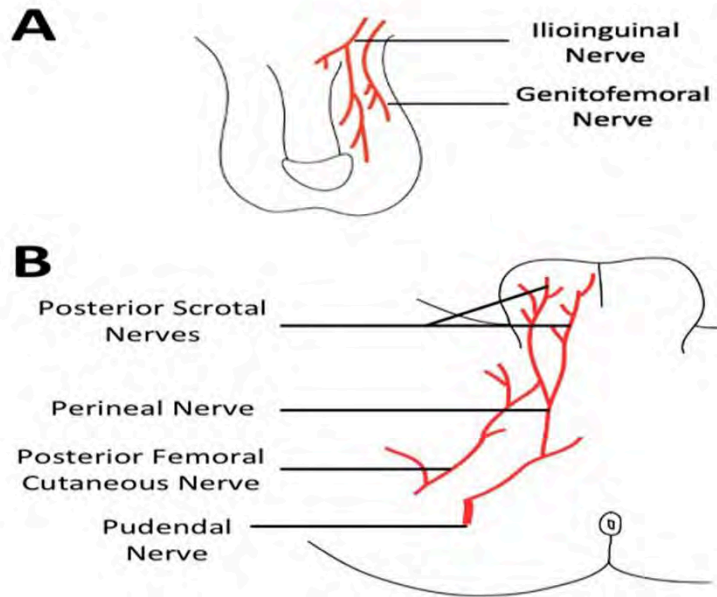


# Bilateral Targeted Neurolysis and Varicocelelectomy

Sijo J. Parekattil, MD



# Posterior-Inferior Scrotal Nerve Block (PISB) & Posterior-Inferior Scrotal Denervation (PISD)<sup>1</sup>



1. Skin
2. Dartos
3. External Spermatic Fascia
4. Cremasteric Muscle
5. Internal Spermatic Fascia

<sup>1</sup> Sergey Kravchick et al., 2023

## Office-Based Salvage Ultrasound-Guided Peri-Spermatic Cord Cryoablation

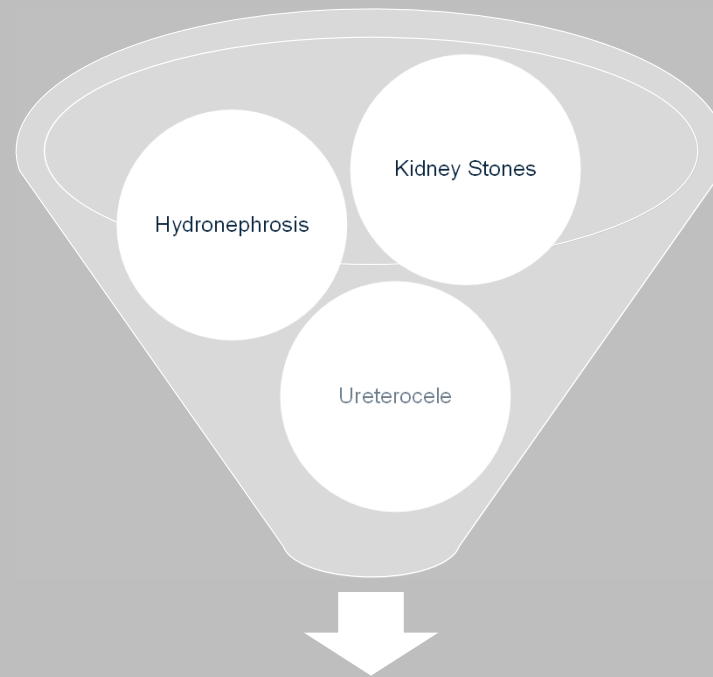
- Prospective cohort study:
  - 106 cases (82 patients): Jan 2021 to Oct 2024
    - Single office-based operating room under IV sedation
    - Single experienced surgeon
    - Pre- and post-op Chronic Orchialgia Symptom Index (COSI) scores were assessed
    - Cooper Surgical Cryo Plus Nitrous Gas System
      - -89 deg F freeze - one freeze/thaw cycle
    - Realtime ultrasound doppler imaging
- Results:
  - Mean follow-up time: 25 months (1 month - 45 months)
  - Mean preoperative COSI Score: 22
  - Mean postoperative COSI Score: 14
  - **76%** all of patients reported significant improvement in pain postop
  - Complications:
    - Localized postoperative wound infection (3 patients, 3.6%)



AVANT  
CONCIERGE UROLOGY



# Case – Never Miss



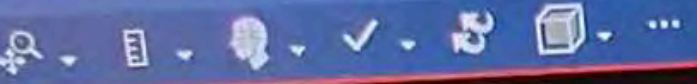
Never Miss Upper Tract Pathology



## Case 2: Referred Chronic Orchialgia

- 34 y/o male with Chronic left testicular/groin/pelvic pain, since 2023 after lifting heavy item, constant squeezing pain, worsening w/ physical activity and intercourse
- COSI P8 S4 Q8
- Scrotal ultrasound: left varicocele
- CT abdomen/pelvis: 7mm right mid ureteral stone with minimal hydronephrosis

Gender: F DOB: Mar 14, 1997 (28 Y) 508491464



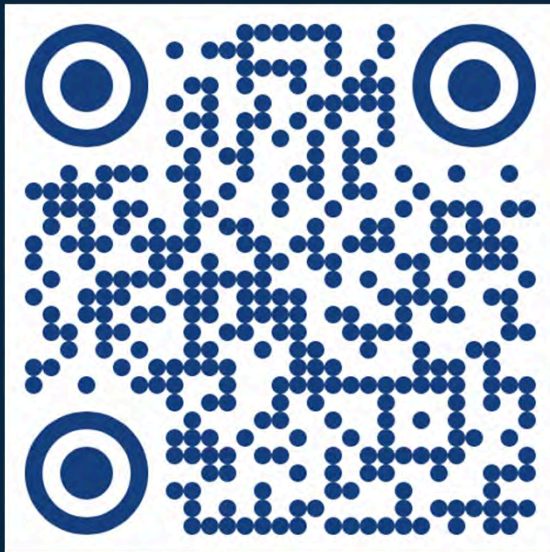
## Sijo Parekattil MD

Avant Concierge Urology

Associate Professor, University of Central Florida

Associate Professor, Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine

Past President, Florida Urological Society



**@drparekattil**

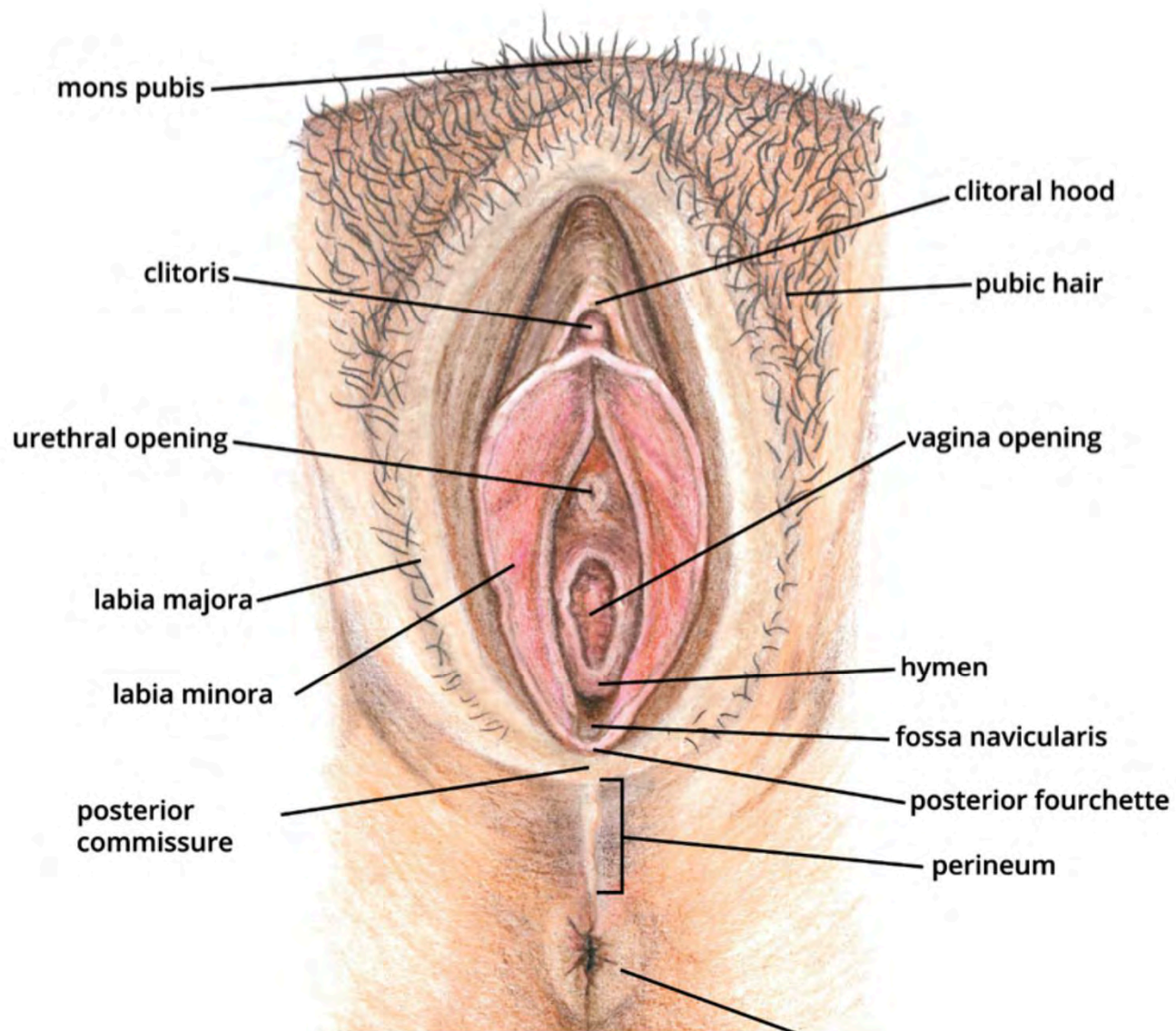
# TIPS FROM THE GYNECOLOGIST

**Jennifer Pollard, MD, FACOG**

*Assistant Professor  
Albany Medical College  
Department of Obstetrics &  
Gynecology*

**ALWAYS DO:**

Examine the vulva

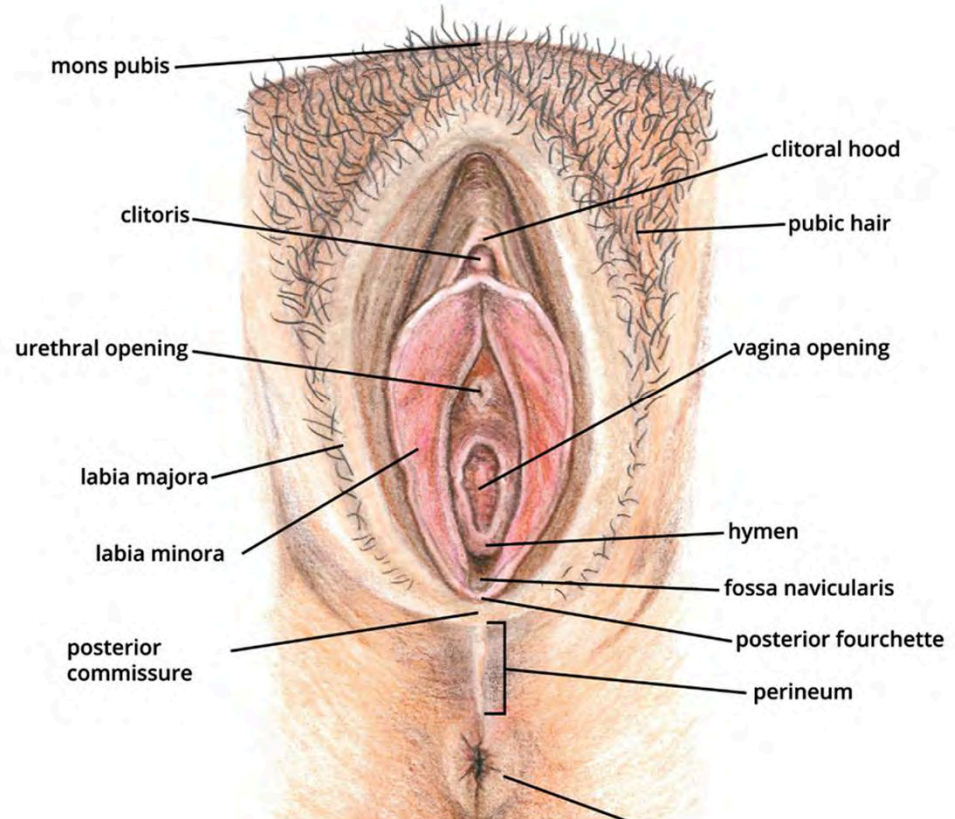


## Vulvar Anatomy

*Image from the Texas  
Evidence Collection  
Protocol –  
Texas A&M University*

## Most common causes of vulvar pain

- Vulvovaginal candidiasis
- STIs (e.g. herpes virus)
- Contact dermatitis
- Vulvodynia
- Vulvovaginal atrophy
- Vulvar dermatoses



*Image from the Texas Evidence Collection Protocol –  
Texas A&M University*

## Most common causes of vulvar pain

- Vulvovaginal candidiasis
- STIs (e.g. herpes virus)
- Contact dermatitis
- Vulvodynia → *diagnosis of exclusion*
- Vulvovaginal atrophy
- Vulvar dermatoses

### Rule out infectious etiology:

*Yeast culture*

*Herpes virus PCR (from lesion)*

*Gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas PCR*

Review proper vulvar hygiene practices

Thorough vulvar exam

## Case: Vulvar Pain

62 yo female presents with dysuria & vulvar/vaginal burning and itching.

### VULVAR EXAM FINDINGS

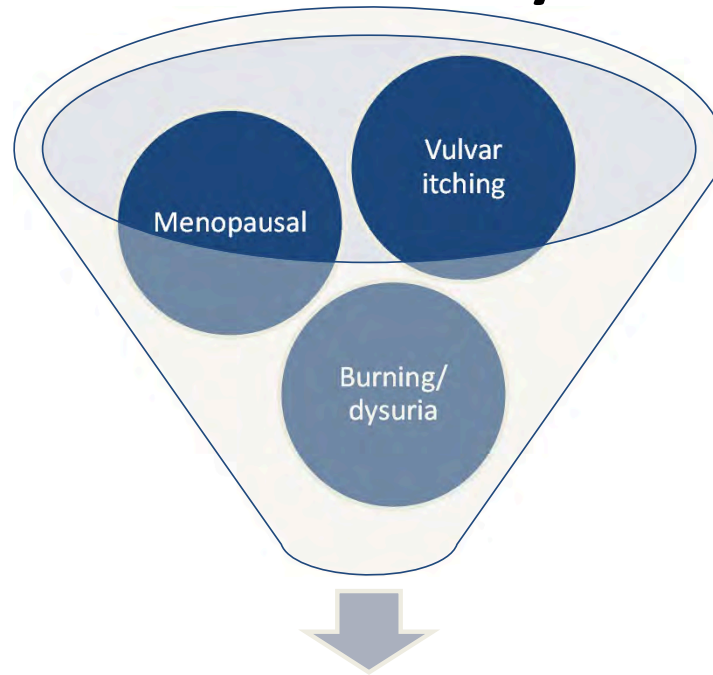
Skin whitening

Erythema

Skin thinning



# Case – Always Do



Rule out lichen sclerosis

# Lichen Sclerosus

## SYMPTOMS

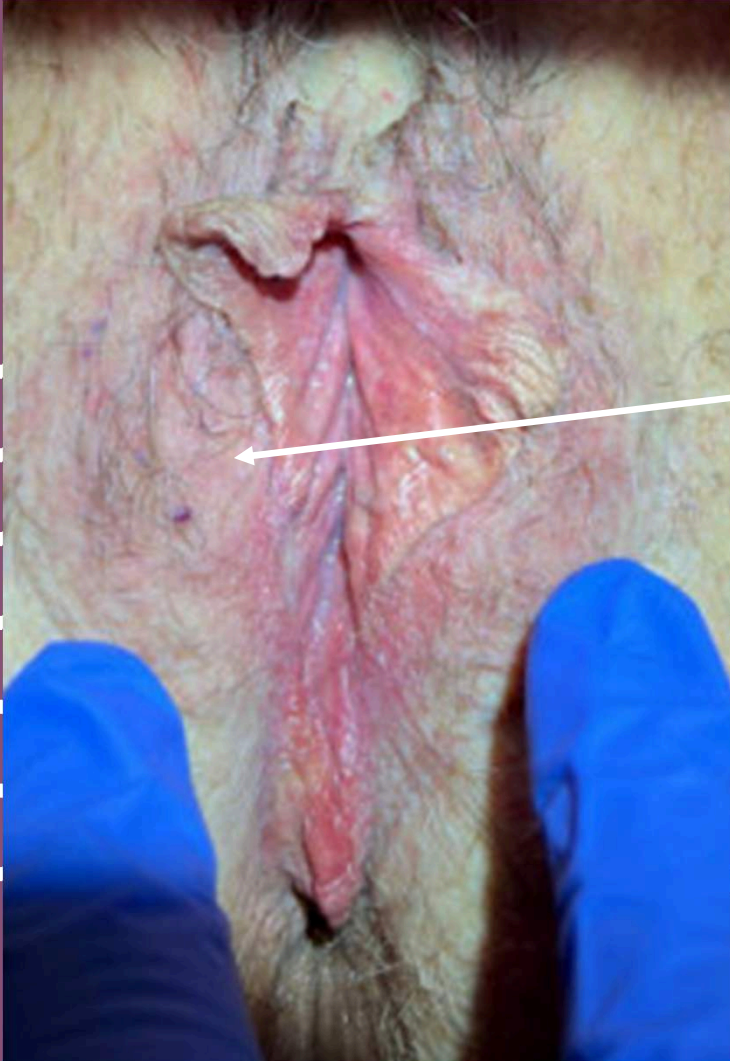
Vulvar, vaginal, and/or perianal itching (may be intense)  
Pain, burning sensation  
Anal discomfort  
Skin damage, bleeding  
Dysuria & dyspareunia



## EXAM FINDINGS

Skin whitening  
Erythema  
Skin thinning  
Fusion of labia minora with vulva  
Atrophic clitoris  
Narrowing of the introitus  
Bridging of tissue at posterior fourchette

# Lichen Sclerosus

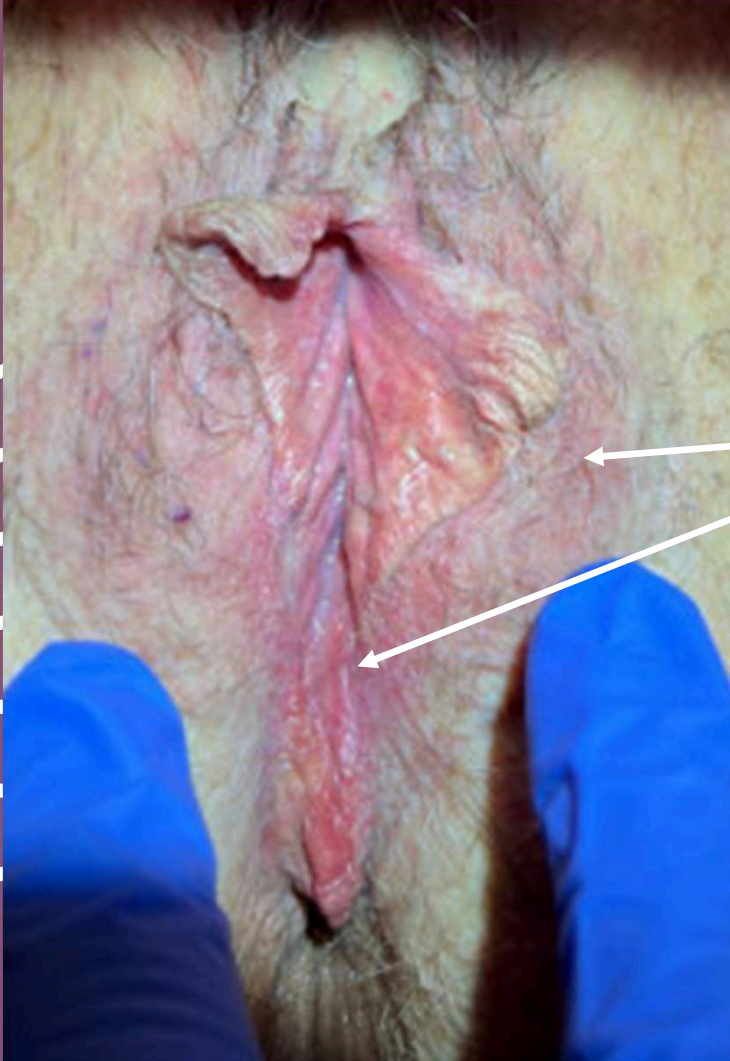


ulva

r

*Patient photo used with consent*

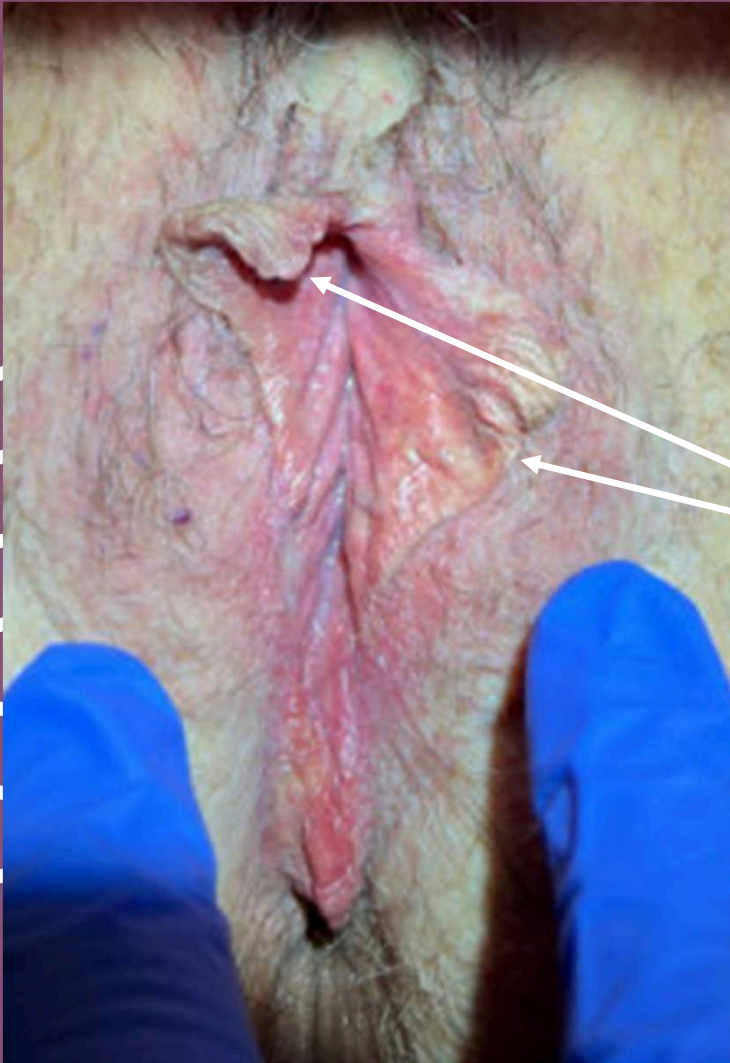
# Lichen Sclerosus



ulva

*Patient photo used with consent*

# Lichen Sclerosus



ulva

r

*Patient photo used with consent*

# Lichen Sclerosus

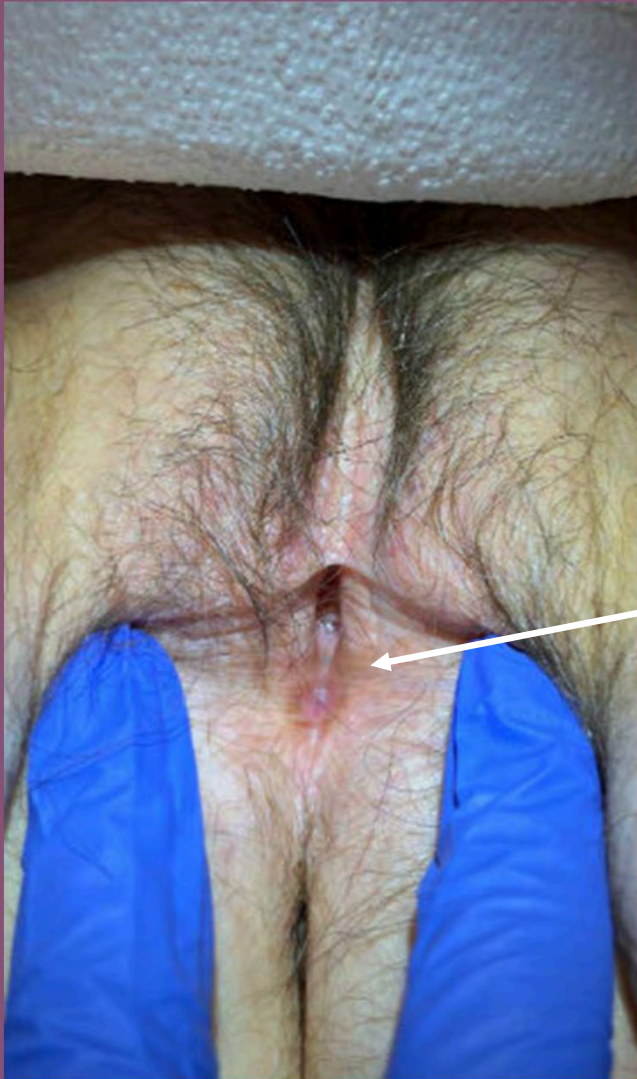


with vulva

s  
terior

*Patient photo used with consent*

# Lichen Sclerosus



with vulva

s  
terior

*Patient photo used with consent*

# Lichen Sclerosus



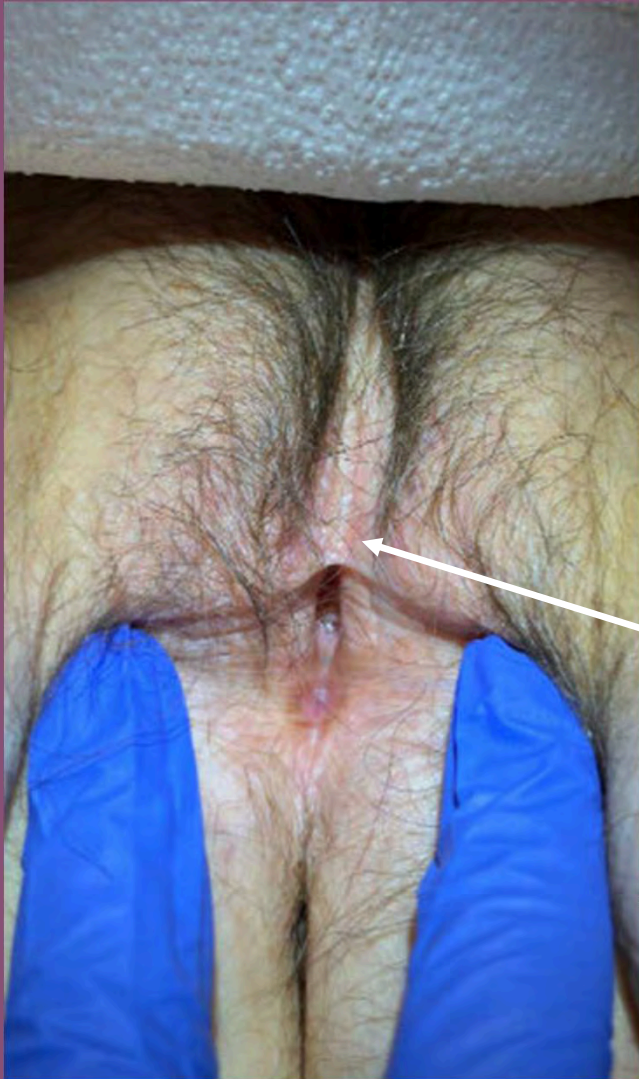
with vulva

s

terior

*Patient photo used with consent*

# Lichen Sclerosus



with vulva

s

terior

*Patient photo used with consent*

# Lichen Sclerosus



with vulva

s  
terior

*Patient photo used with consent*



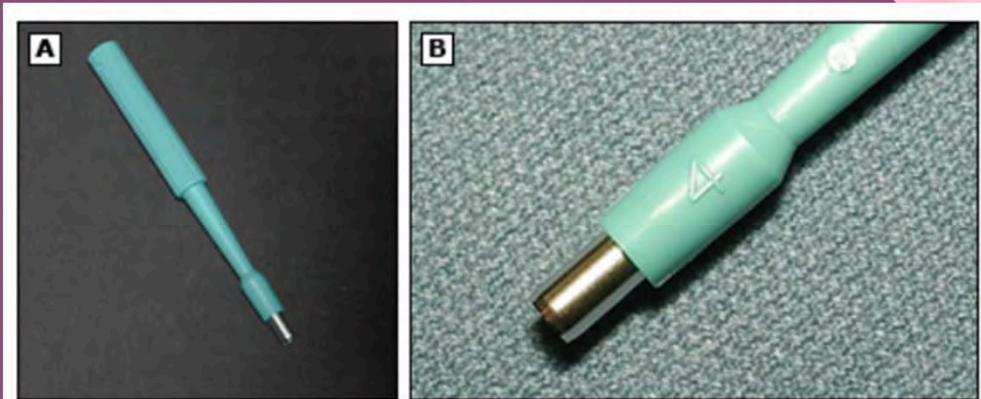
Advanced LS with fusion of the labia majora and bridging of posterior fourchette



Lichen sclerosus resulting in squamous cell carcinoma

# You suspect lichen sclerosus... Now what?

- Refer to a gynecologist, or dermatologist comfortable with vulvar disorders
- Consider starting topical high potency corticosteroid (e.g. clobetasol propionate ointment 0.05%)
- Topical lidocaine and barrier ointment helpful for comfort
- Consider vulvar biopsy



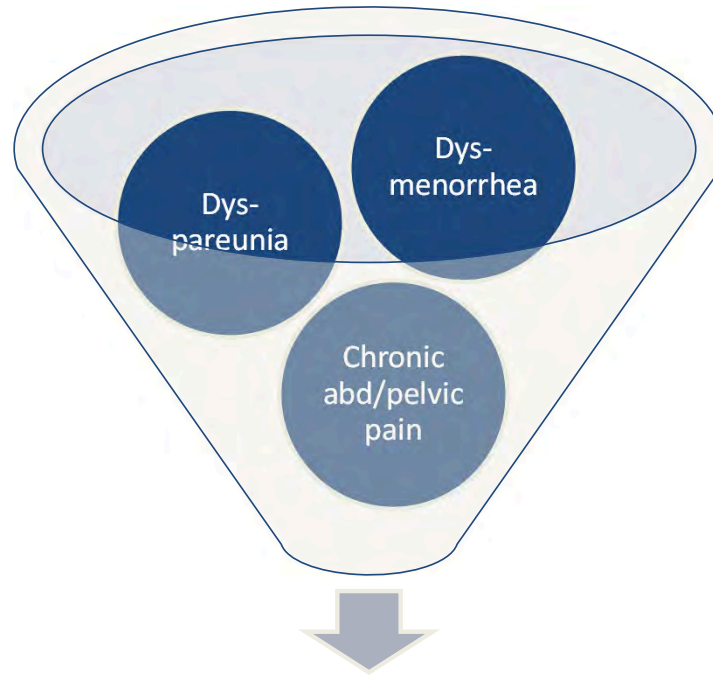
Keyes punch for vulvar biopsy

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**NEVER MISS:**

Classic signs of endometriosis

# Case – Never Miss



Never miss endometriosis

## Case: Cyclic Pain

32 yo female presenting with chronic pelvic pain. Reporting:

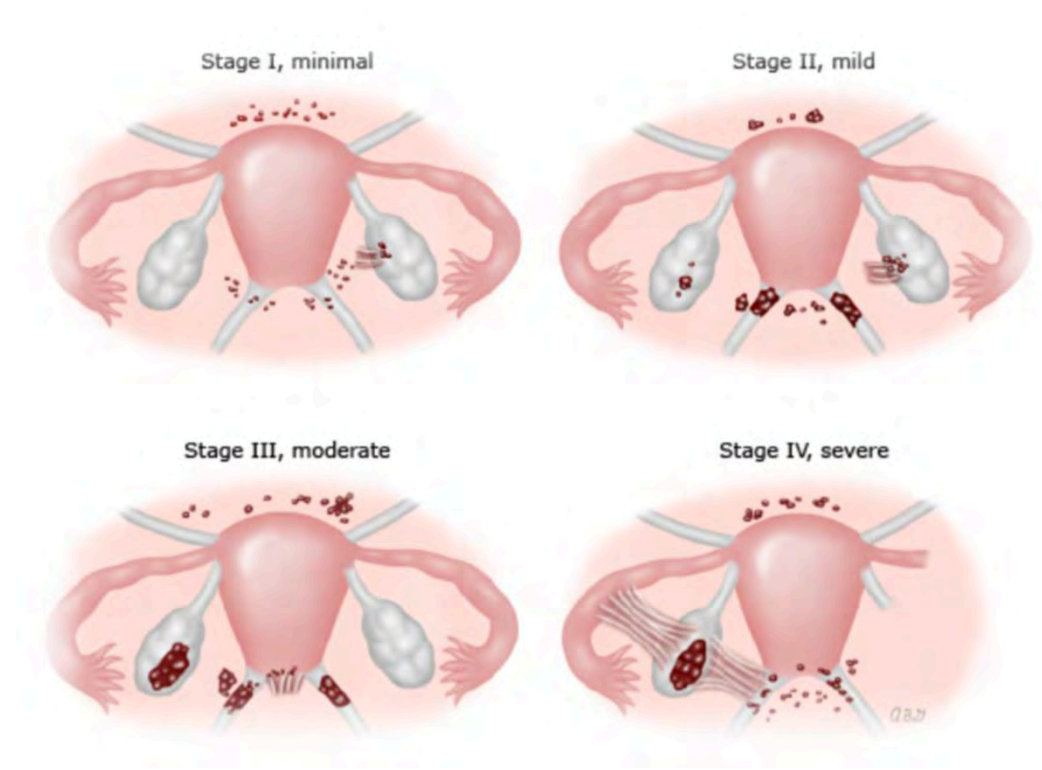
- Urinary urgency
- Urinary frequency
- Pelvic Pressure
- Sensation of Incomplete Emptying (PVR 15)
- Dyspareunia
- Pelvic pain worse with menses



# Endometriosis

Characterized by:

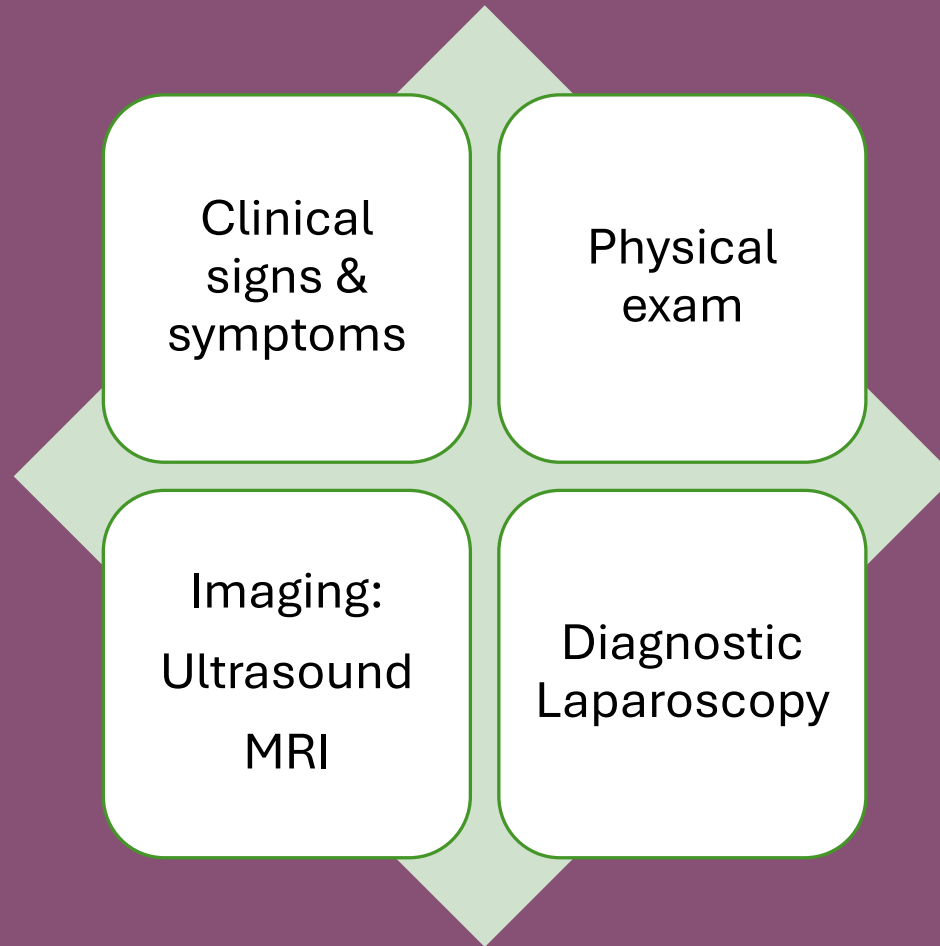
- Painful menses
- Heavy menses
- Progressively worsening chronic pain
- May respond to NSAIDs and/or hormonal medications

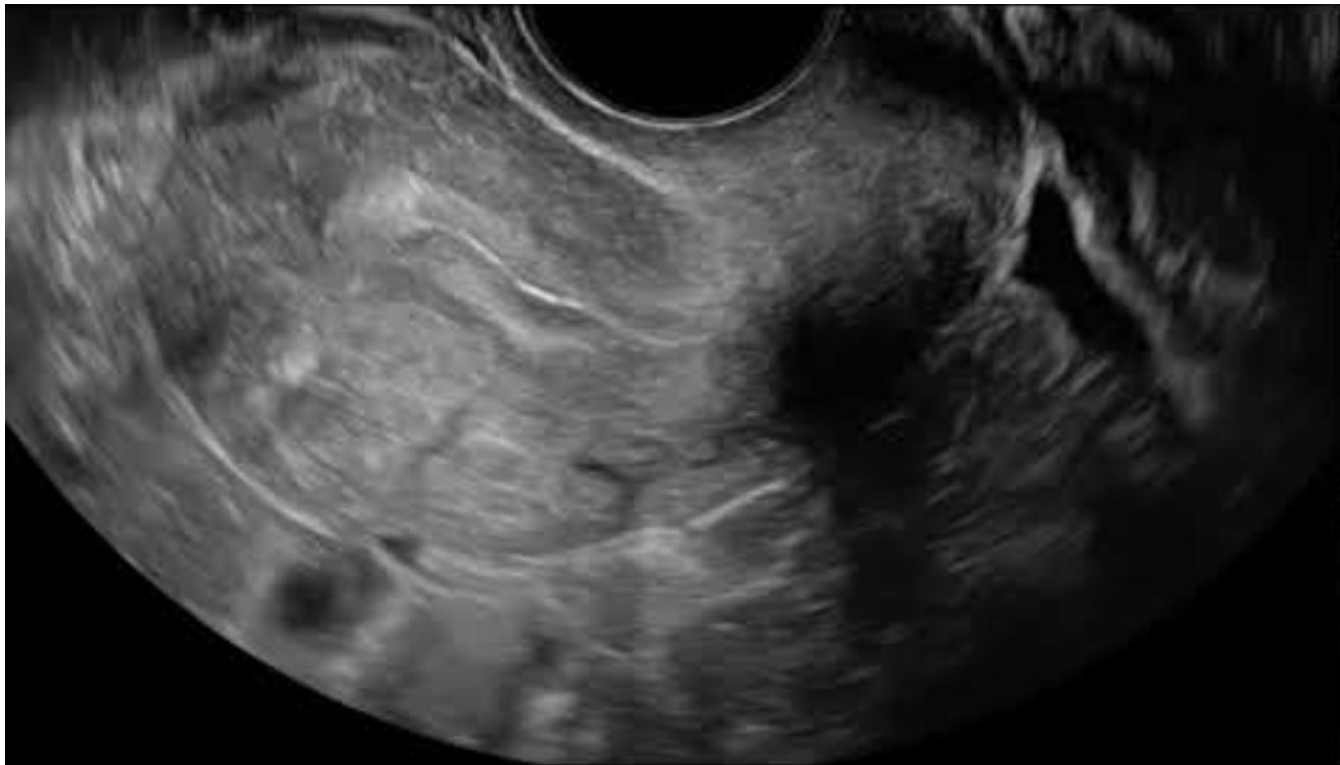


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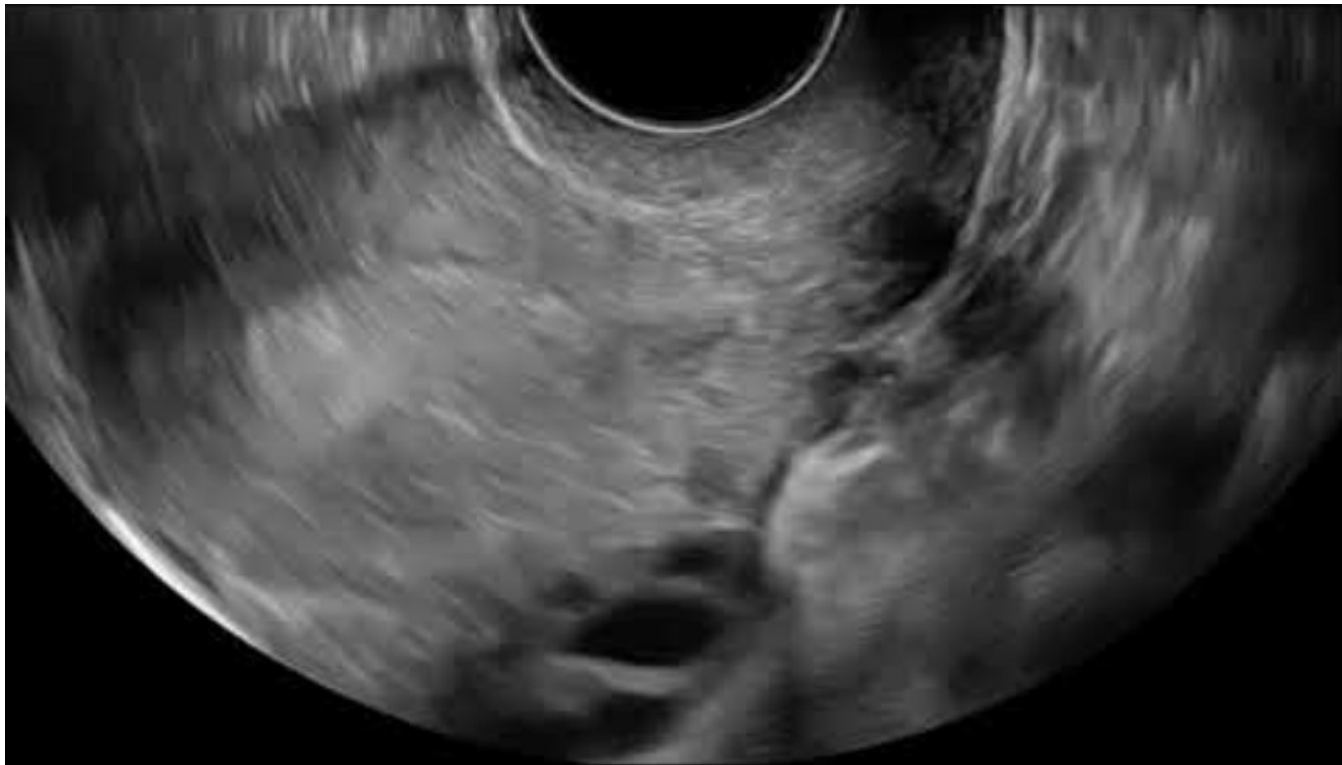
All Rights Reserved.

# Diagnosing Endometriosis

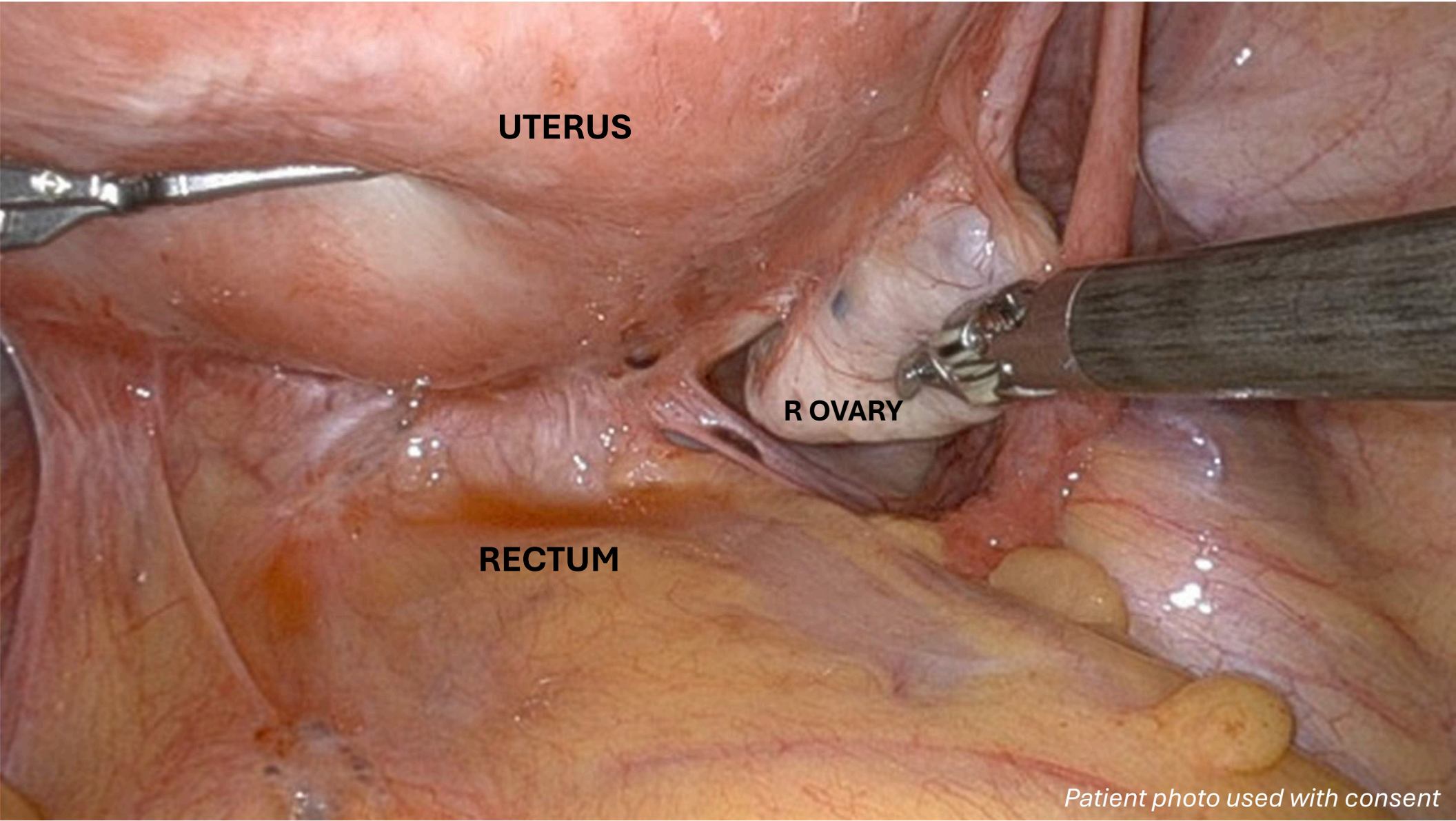




*This video is part of a series from the article, 'Noninvasive ultrasound diagnosis of endometriosis,' by Mathew Leonardi, MD, and George Condous, MBBS. <https://www.contemporaryobgyn.net/view/noninvasive-ultrasound-diagnosis-endometriosis>*



*This video is part of a series from the article, 'Noninvasive ultrasound diagnosis of endometriosis,' by Mathew Leonardi, MD, and George Condous, MBBS. <https://www.contemporaryobgyn.net/view/noninvasive-ultrasound-diagnosis-endometriosis>*



**UTERUS**

**R OVARY**

**RECTUM**

*Patient photo used with consent*

# Treating Endometriosis

## **\*\*Patient-centered approach\*\***

→ Goals of care &

→ Education

→ Hormonal suppression:

- Birth control pill
- Progesterone IUD
- Progesterone implant
- GnRH antagonist/agonist

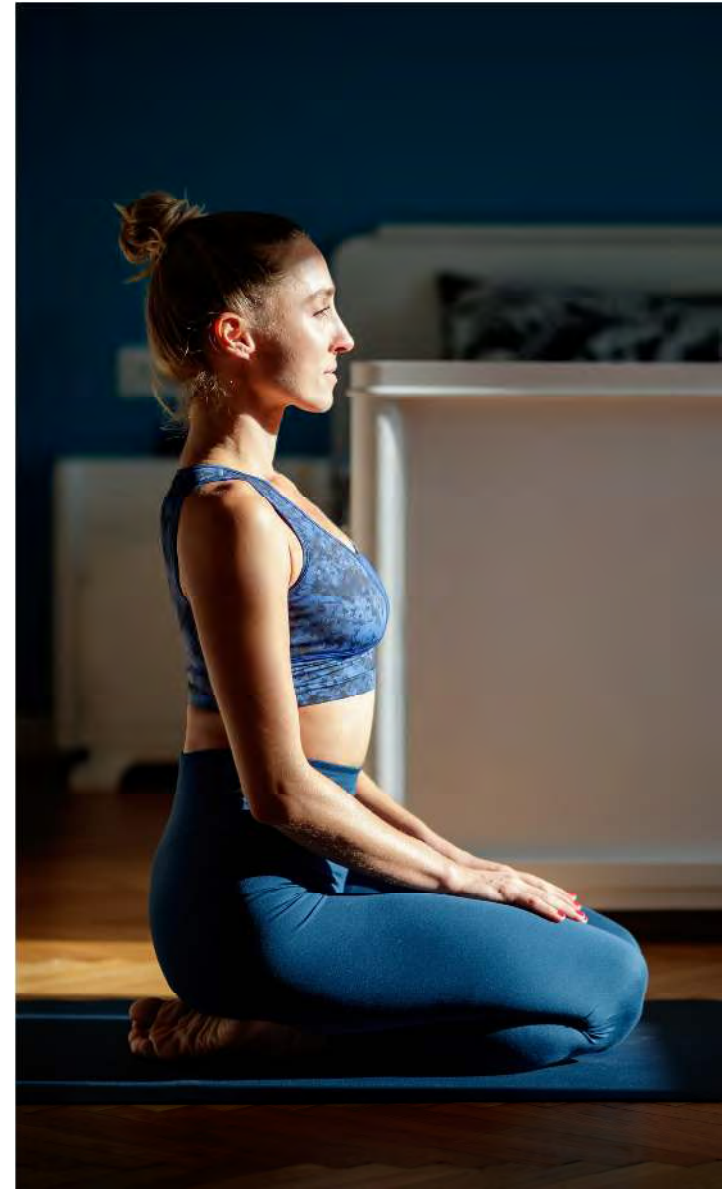
→ Pain control:

- NSAIDs
- Heat/ice
- TENS unit
- Other meds: Tylenol, muscle relaxers, gabapentin

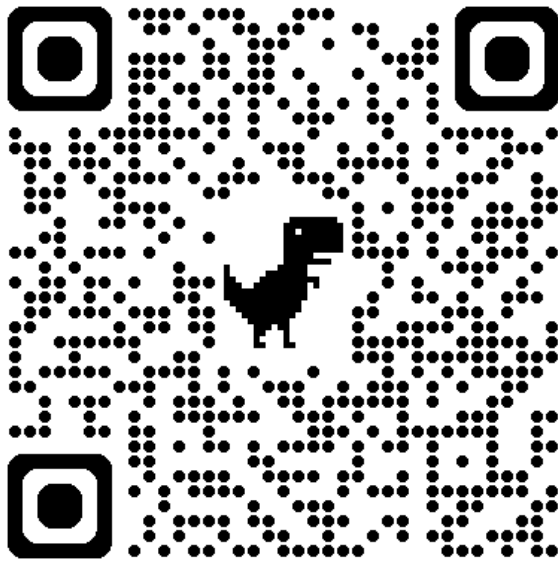
→ Surgery



Tools for Practice  
In  
CPP



# ICS Global Pelvic Pain Exchange Curriculum



ICS TV

ICS TV > ICS Global Pelvic Pain Exchange Curriculum

### Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Curriculum on Pelvic Pain

This educational series is the first of its kind, providing a full start to finish curriculum on diagnosis and management of pelvic pain. It is designed for the educational and collegial needs of multidisciplinary pelvic health groups (Urologists, Gynecologists, Physiotherapists, Nurses, Radiologists, Neurologists, Interventional Pain Specialists, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians, Rheumatologists, Psychologists, Basic Scientists, Colorectal Surgeons and others) serving those with pelvic pain around the world.

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Discover the Vision Behind the Curriculum.

[Table of Contents](#)  
View the detailed index of sections and videos.

### ICS Global Pelvic Pain Exchange Curriculum

12 Sections

- "How To": Basic Approaches to Pelvic Pain**  
10 Episodes
- Organ-Based Pelvic Pain**  
14 Episodes
- Focal Neurological Pelvic Pain**  
5 Episodes
- Pudendal Neuropathy and Pelvic Nerve Entrapment**  
7 Episodes
- Pelvic Floor Muscle Tone (PFM): Why is it important and how to ...**  
5 Episodes
- Physiotherapy of Pelvic Pain**  
5 Episodes
- Hip Causes of Pelvic Pain**  
5 Episodes
- Neurodiagnostics for Pelvic Pain**  
6 Episodes
- TENS, Blocks, Stimulation, and Pumps for Pelvic Pain**  
7 Episodes
- Systemic Pain Involving the Pelvis**  
6 Episodes
- Pain Management and Pharmacology for Pelvic Pain**  
7 Episodes
- Psychological and Cognitive Approach to Pain, Patient ...**  
8 Episodes

ICS  
INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY

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### Diagnosis and Treatment of Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome

Published 2011  
Philip M. Hanno  
John B. Forrest  
Christopher K. F...

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

##### Purpose

This guideline is intended to provide a systematic review of the literature using the MEDLINE® database (search dates 1/1/63-7/22/09) was conducted to identify peer-reviewed publications relevant to the diagnosis and treatment of IC/BPS. The review yielded an evidence-based synthesis of treatment articles after application of inclusion/exclusion criteria. The AUA Update Literature Review process includes an additional systematic review of the literature conducted in 2022. These publications were added to the body of the guideline. Additional treatment options may be identified. See text and algorithm for details.

##### Methodology

A systematic review of the literature using the MEDLINE® database (search dates 1/1/63-7/22/09) was conducted to identify peer-reviewed publications relevant to the diagnosis and treatment of IC/BPS. The review yielded an evidence-based synthesis of treatment articles after application of inclusion/exclusion criteria. The AUA Update Literature Review process includes an additional systematic review of the literature conducted in 2022. These publications were added to the body of the guideline. Additional treatment options may be identified. See text and algorithm for details.

## GUIDELINE

### CUA guideline: Diagnosis and treatment of bladder pain syndrome

Consensus panel co-chairs: Ashley Cox, MD, MSc, FRCSC,<sup>1</sup> Genevieve Nadeau, MD, MSc, FRCSC<sup>2</sup>  
Consensus panel members: J. Curtis Nickel, MD, FRCSC,<sup>4</sup> Les Jacques Corcos, MD, FRCSC,<sup>6</sup> Joel Teichman, MD, FRCSC<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Urology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Department of Urology, North York General Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada; <sup>3</sup>CHU de Québec, Division of Urology, Québec, QC, Canada; <sup>4</sup>Queens University, Kingston, ON, Canada; <sup>5</sup>Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada; <sup>6</sup>McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada; <sup>7</sup>University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Cite as: *Can Urol Assoc J* 2016;10(5-6):E136-55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5489/auaj.3786>  
Published online May 12, 2016.

#### Methodology

The following guidelines were based on MEDLINE and PUBMED searches of English language literature, in addition to consensus conference proceedings. Levels of evidence and grades of recommendation were assigned for each investigation and treatment, as per the modified Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine grading system. All recommendations were based on the best available evidence.

# uroweb.org

AWMF online

Journal der wissenschaftlichen Medizin

S2K-Leitlinie

Diagnostik und Therapie der Interstitiellen Cystitis (IC/BPS)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie

International Journal of  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology



Royal College of  
Obstetricians &  
Gynaecologists

## Bladder Pain Syndrome

September 2016

D. Engeler (Chair), A.P. Baranowski, B. Berghmans,  
J. Birch (Patient Advocate), J. Borovicka, A.M. Cottrell,  
P. Dinis-Oliveira, S. Elneil, J. Hughes,  
E.J. Messelink (Vice-chair), R.A. Pinto,  
M.L. van Poelgeest (Patient Advocate), V. Tidman,  
A.C. de C Williams  
Guidelines Associates: P. Abreu-Mendes, S. Dabestani,  
B. Parsons, J. Tornic, V. Zumstein  
Guidelines Office: J.A. Darraugh

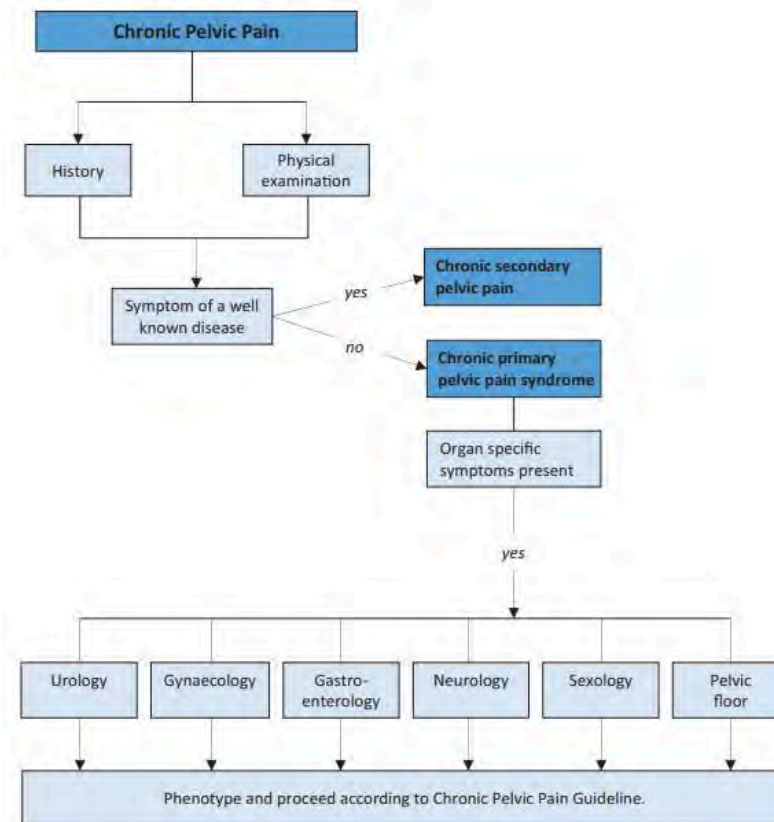
© European Association of Urology 2023



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bladder pain, in 2010, the International Consultation  
of Urologists accepted this revised definition. In 2020,

# EAU Guidelines

Figure 1: Diagnosing chronic pelvic pain



Journal of Urology April 17 2025

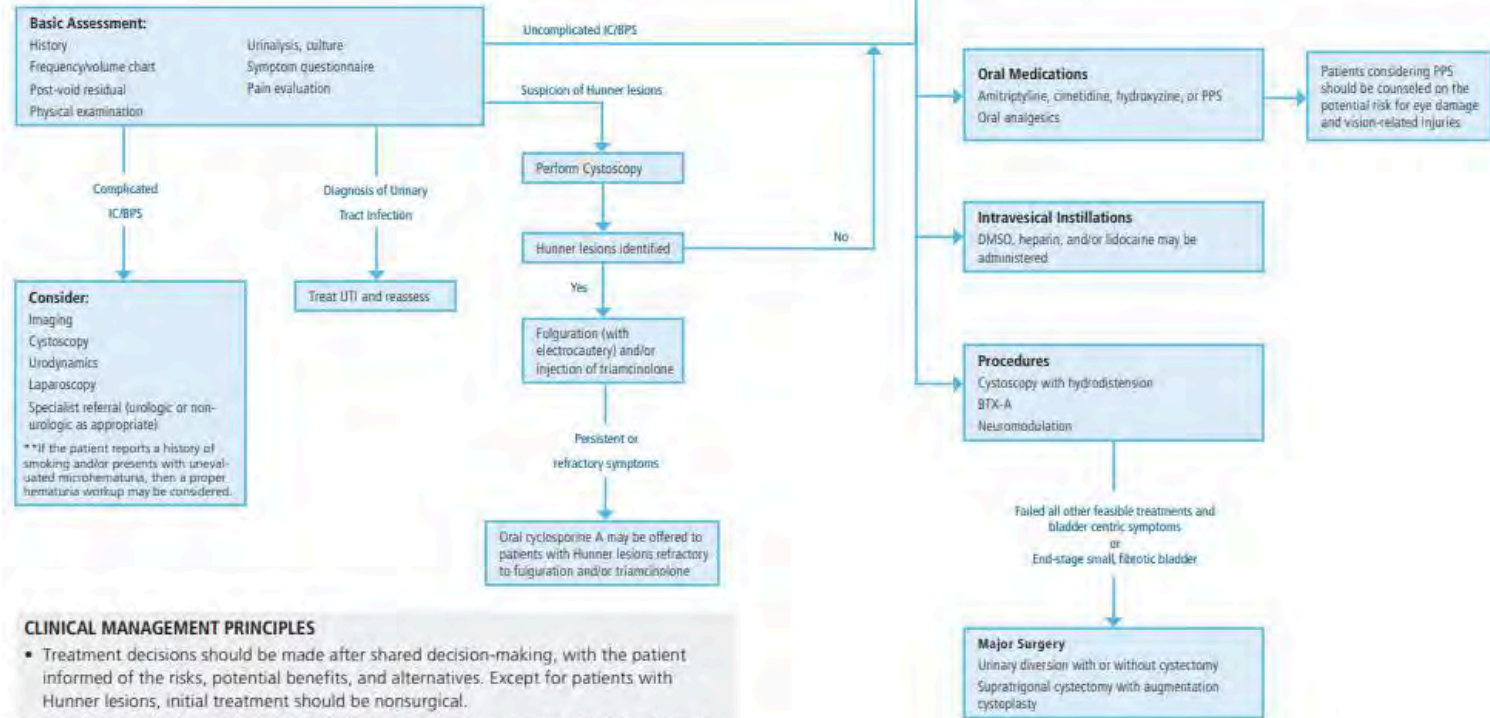
# Diagnosis and Management of Male Chronic Pelvic Pain (Chronic Prostatitis/Chronic Pelvic Pain Syndrome and Chronic Scrotal Content Pain): AUA Guideline: Part I

H. Henry Lai, MD; Michel A. [Pontari](#), MD; Charles E. [Argoff](#), MD; Larissa Bresler, MD, DABMA; Benjamin N. Breyer, MD; Roger Chou, MD; J. Quentin Clemens, MD, FACS, MSCI; Elise JB De, MD; R. Christopher Doiron, MD, MPH; Dane Johnson, MD; Erin Kirkby, MS; Susan M. MacDonald, MD; Jill H. Osborne, MA; Sijo J. [Parekattil](#), MD; Beth Shelly, PT, DPT, WCS, BCB PMD

# AUA Guideline IC/BPS

**Figure One: IC/BPS Diagnosis and Treatment Algorithm**

IC/BPS: An unpleasant sensation (pain, pressure, discomfort) perceived to be related to the urinary bladder, associated with lower urinary tract symptoms of more than six weeks duration, in the absence of infection or other identifiable causes.



**CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

- Treatment decisions should be made after shared decision-making, with the patient informed of the risks, potential benefits, and alternatives. Except for patients with Hunner lesions, initial treatment should be nonsurgical.
- Initial treatment type and level should depend on symptom severity, clinician judgment, and patient preferences.
- Multiple, simultaneous treatments may be considered if it is in the best interests of the patient.
- Ineffective treatments should be stopped.
- Pain management should be continually assessed for effectiveness.
- The IC/BPS diagnosis should be reconsidered if no improvement occurs after multiple treatment approaches.

BTX-A: Onabotulinumtoxin A; DMSO: Dimethylsulfoxide; IC/BPS: Interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome; PPS: Pentosan polysulfate; UTI: Urinary tract infection.  
The evidence supporting the use of Neuromodulation, Cyclosporine A and BTX-A for IC/BPS is limited by many factors including study quality, small sample sizes, and lack of durable follow up. None of these three therapies have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for this indication. The panel believes that none of these interventions can be recommended for general use for this disorder, but rather should be limited to practitioners with experience managing this syndrome and willingness to provide long term care of these patients post intervention.  
Copyright © 2022 American Urological Association. Education and Research, Inc.

Clemens JQ, Erickson DR, Varela NP, Lai HH. Diagnosis and treatment of interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome. J Urol. 2022;208(1):34-42

# Approach to Patients Labelled with IC

## Predocumentation:

- ▶ Comprehensive intake
- Multidisciplinary symptom screening & review of symptoms
- Catalogue of prior testing
- Catalogue of prior trials of therapy

## Visit:

Verbal story from patient → Clue e.g., acute onset unilateral pelvic pain + LUTS suggesting ureteric stone → Investigate

- ▶ Physical exam, UA & PVR as per AUA guidelines
- ▶ Review existing testing & imaging

Abnormal → Investigate

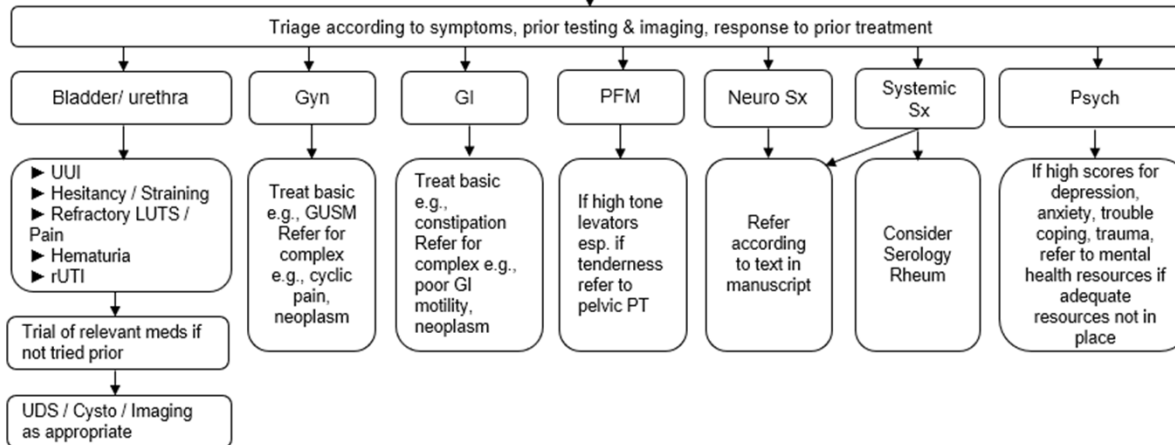
Not Abnormal →

- Stable disease
- Happy with quality of life
- No red flags
- Meets SUFU definition

No

Yes

Support current plan of care for IC/BPS



# International Pelvic Pain Society

## www.pelvicpain.org

### Healthcare Provider Assessment Form

### Patient Pelvic Health History Form

**INTERNATIONAL PELVIC PAIN SOCIETY HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ASSESSMENT FORM**  
www.pelvicpain.org

**Neurologic (External)**

| Distribution              | Right                                                                                                          | Left                                                                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Iliohypogastric           | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Ilioinguinal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Obturator                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Genitofemoral             | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Cluneal                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Lateral femoral cutaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Podendal Branch:          | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Anal wink reflex          | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent                                             |

**Fibromyalgia Positive Tender Points AND Body Pain Map**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Add comments, including pain severity and radiation patterns.

Last revised 03.19 [www.pelvicpain.org](http://www.pelvicpain.org)

**INTERNATIONAL PELVIC PAIN SOCIETY PELVIC HEALTH HISTORY FORM**  
www.pelvicpain.org

**10. Pain History, Description and Contributing Factors**

When did your pain begin? Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  Unsure

Please use your own words to describe your pain:

How did your main pain begin, do you recall a specific incident that occurred when your pain first began? (Check one)  
 Injury at home  Injury at work/school  Injury in other setting  Motor vehicle crash  
 After surgery  Cancer  Medical condition other than cancer  
 No obvious cause/ do not know a specific incident  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How did your pain begin? (Check only one)  Suddenly  Gradually

How long has your main pain been present? (Check only one)  
 Less than 3 months  3-12 months  12 months-2 years  2-5 years  More than 5 years

Since your pain began, is your pain: (Check only one)  
 No different  Getting better  Getting worse  I don't know

Which statement best describes your pain? (Check only one)  
 Always present (always the same intensity)  
 Always present (level of pain varies)  
 Often present (pain free periods less than 6 hours)  
 Occasionally present (once to several times per day lasting up to an hour)  
 Rarely present (pain occurs every few days or weeks)

How would you describe your pain: (Check all that apply)  
 Sharp, stabbing  Crampy  Heavy feeling in the pelvis  Dull, achy pain  
 Pulling, tugging pain  Throbbing pain  Burning pain  Falling out sensation  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your pain ever wake you up from your sleep?  Yes  No

Does your pain ever radiate or spread to other regions of your body?  Yes  No

What makes your pain **WORSE**? (Check all that apply)  
 Walking  Climbing stairs  Urination  Heavy lifting  Nothing makes it worse  
 Full bladder  Stress  Housework  The weather  Getting in/out of the car  
 Exercise  Menstrual period  Contact with clothing  Intercourse/ Sexual contact  
 Bowel movements  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What makes your pain **BETTER**? (Check all that apply)  
 Lying down/rest  Emptying bladder  Ice or Heating pad  Nothing makes it better  
 Meditation  Laxatives/enema  It goes away by itself  When I feel supported  
 Hot bath  Massage  Bowel movements  When my stress is low  
 Exercise  Ibuprofen or Tylenol  Prescription pain medications  
 Being distracted, when I am busy doing other things  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Last revised 03.2019 [www.pelvicpain.org](http://www.pelvicpain.org)  
 All information, content and material on this form is for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the care, history, diagnosis, and/or medical treatment of a qualified physician or healthcare professional.

[www.ics.org/standards](http://www.ics.org/standards)  
[www.ics.org/institute](http://www.ics.org/institute)

- Definition – noncyclic CPP > 3 months
- Pain Characteristics – location, perception, modality
- Site specific versus central sensitization
- Identify inciting event – surgery, trauma, hormonal manipulation, major change in physical activity
- Comorbid conditions (e.g. autoimmune disease, XRT)
- Identify each pain generator and treat concurrently
- Domains of CPP – which organ systems are involved
  - Lower Urinary Tract Pain
  - Female Genital Pain
  - Male Genital Pain
  - Gastrointestinal Pain
  - Musculoskeletal Pain
  - Neuropathic Pain
  - Overlays:
    - Psychological
    - Sexual Aspects
    - Comorbidities

AND

Neurorol. Urodynam., 2016 36: 984–1008.

Neurourology and Urodynamics

### A Standard for Terminology in Chronic Pelvic Pain Syndromes: A Report From the Chronic Pelvic Pain Working Group of the International Continence Society

Regula Doggweiler,<sup>1</sup> Kristene E. Whitmore,<sup>2\*</sup> Jane M. Meijlink,<sup>3</sup> Marcus J. Drake,<sup>4</sup> Helena Frawley,<sup>5</sup> Jørgen Nordling,<sup>6</sup> Philip Hanno,<sup>7</sup> Matthew O. Fraser,<sup>8</sup> Yukio Homma,<sup>9</sup> Gustavo Garrido,<sup>10</sup> Mario J. Gomes,<sup>11</sup> Sohier Elneil,<sup>12</sup> Joop P. van de Merwe,<sup>13</sup> Alex T.L. Lin,<sup>14</sup> and Hikaru Tomoe<sup>15</sup>



Received: 16 February 2021

Accepted: 17 February 2021

DOI: 10.1002/nau.24658

**SOUNDING BOARD**



## **An International Continence Society (ICS) report on the terminology for pelvic floor muscle assessment**

Helena Frawley<sup>1</sup> | Beth Shelly<sup>2,3</sup> | Melanie Morin<sup>4</sup> |  
Stéphanie Bernard<sup>5</sup> | Kari Bø<sup>6,7</sup> | Giuseppe Alessandro Digesu<sup>8</sup> |  
Tamara Dickinson<sup>9</sup> | Sanchia Goonewardene<sup>10</sup> | Doreen McClurg<sup>11</sup> |  
Mohammad S. Rahnama'i<sup>12,13</sup> | Alexis Schizas<sup>14</sup> |  
Marijke Slieker-ten Hove<sup>15,16</sup> | Satoru Takahashi<sup>17</sup> | Jenniffer Voelkl Guevara<sup>18</sup>

<https://www.ics.org/standards>

New Standardization Document

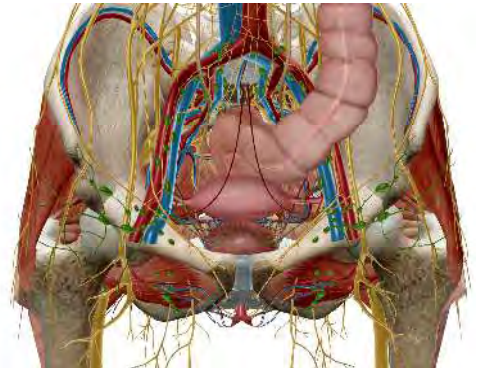
Treatment of Pelvic Pain depends on the:

**Causes of Pain in Pelvis and Reasons for Pelvic Pain**

| LOCATION of PELVIC PAIN SYMPTOMS                                                                                                                                   | POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS of CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN SYNDROME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vulvar pain</b><br>Vulva and pelvic burning, burning in pelvic area                                                                                             | Infection<br>Exposures (irritants)<br>Vulvar atrophy (low estrogen)<br>Low testosterone (can be caused by external hormones)<br>Dermatologic conditions (e.g., lichen sclerosis)<br>Neuropathy                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Introital pain</b><br>Entrance to vagina                                                                                                                        | Low testosterone<br>Friction from sexual activity or clothing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Urethral pain</b><br>Pain urinating                                                                                                                             | Vulvovaginal atrophy<br>Urethral caruncle<br>Friction<br>Tight external sphincter muscle or stricture (turbulence)<br>Skene's gland<br>Stone at ureterovesical junction or urethra diverticulum<br>Tumor<br>Infection ( <u>ureaplasma</u> /mycoplasma) or sexually transmitted infection<br>Recurrent urinary tract infections                |
| <b>Pelvic floor muscles</b><br>Heavy feeling in pelvic area, pelvic ache, pelvic pain from sitting, pelvic headache                                                | Dysfunctional voiding<br>Overactivity of muscles from pelvic strain, pelvic exercises or the <u>kegel</u> exercise                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Gynecological pain</b><br>Causes of pelvic pain in women, pain in pelvic female, symptoms of pelvic infection, sore pelvic area, pelvic discomfort, sore pelvis | Endometriosis symptoms (cramps in pelvis, pain in pelvis before period, pain in pelvis after period, extreme pelvic pain)<br>Endometritis<br>Adhesions in pelvis<br>Uterine fibroids<br>Ovarian venous abnormality<br>Ovarian cysts, torsion, or other growths<br>Ectopic pregnancy<br>Sexually transmitted infection, inflammation in pelvis |
| <b>Male organ pain</b>                                                                                                                                             | Prostatitis symptoms or epididymitis<br>Testis mass, torsion, or nerve pain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prostate pain, testis pain, groin pain, scrotum pain, pelvis pain men, pain in pelvis male                                                                                       | Ejaculatory duct or vas deferens obstruction<br><u>Psoriasis</u> Disease<br>Sexually transmitted infection (STI, STD)<br>Pelvic floor muscles, especially when prostatitis treatment has not been successful                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Bladder pain</b>                                                                                                                                                              | Interstitial cystitis<br>Dietary triggers<br>Bladder outlet obstruction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Gastrointestinal Pain</b><br>Painful bowel movement, stomach cramps, blood in stool, cramps, bloating                                                                         | Pelvic floor muscles: <u>levator ani</u> syndrome<br>Proctalgia fugax / chronic proctalgia<br>Unspecified functional anorectal pain<br>Constipation –right pelvic pain, lower left side pelvic pain<br>Anal Fissure<br>Hemorrhoids<br>Pruritis ani<br>Anal cancer<br>Paget's disease<br>Warts<br>Pelvic tumor<br>Diverticulitis<br>Appendicitis<br>Adhesions in pelvis<br>Hernia – pelvic pain sneezing<br>Inflammatory bowel disease<br>Irritable bowel syndrome – gas pain in pelvis |
| <b>Vascular pain in lower pelvis</b><br>Pelvis pain worse with standing                                                                                                          | Pelvic venous disorder, pelvic venous congestion syndrome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Bone pain, Joint Pain</b><br>Pelvic girdle pain, fractured pelvis symptoms, pelvic bone pain, pubic symphysis pain, pain in hips, pain in the pubic area, pelvic pain running | Back, knee, foot, or hip problem<br>Injury to nerves, bones, ligaments, or tendons<br>Inflammation of bone (osteitis or osteomyelitis)<br>Muscle deficit (myopathy)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Nerve pain</b><br>Burning pain in pelvis, burning sensation in pelvic area, pain that radiates down one leg, sharp pains in pelvic area                                       | Upper motor neuron syndrome (upper spine/brain nerves)<br>Spinal stenosis<br>Herniated disc<br>Multiple sclerosis<br>Stroke<br>Cerebral palsy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                | Lower motor neuron syndromes (lower spinal cord)<br>Cauda equina syndrome<br>Tethered cord syndrome<br><u>Tarlov</u> Cyst<br>Sacral plexus<br>Peripheral nerve problem<br>Pudendal neuropathy, pudendal neuralgia, or other nerve entrapment<br>Peripheral neuropathy or neuroinflammation |
| <b>Psychological</b>                                                           | Loss of health<br>Depression<br>Anxiety<br>History of sexual abuse/assault, PTSD<br>Poor emotional coping/communication<br>Personality disorders<br>Couple distress                                                                                                                        |
| <b>All-over pain</b><br>Pain all over the body, pain everywhere, constant pain | Fibromyalgia<br>Small fiber polyneuropathy<br>Diabetic neuropathy<br>Central sensitization<br>Neuroinflammatory disease (e.g. Lyme disease)<br>Rheumatologic disease<br>Vasculitis                                                                                                         |



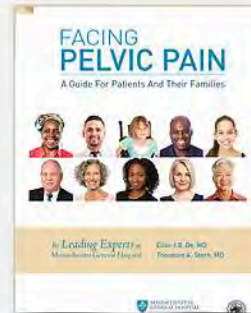
Differential Diagnosis of Pelvic Pain  
[www.facingpelvicpain.org](http://www.facingpelvicpain.org)

Free Multidisciplinary One-Stop Resource  
Providers and Patients  
[www.facingpelvicpain.org](http://www.facingpelvicpain.org)



Finding a specialist experienced specifically in pelvic pain can be challenging. But, don't give up! Here are some databases that will help you find the right medical care provider in your area (click the links below):

- [American Urogynecological Society \(AUGS\)](#)
- [American College of Ob-Gyn](#)
- [American Physical Therapy Association](#)
- [Herman Wallace Institute](#)
- [Global Pelvic Health Alliance](#)
- [Endometriosis Association](#)
- [International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders](#)
- [Interstitial Cystitis Network](#)
- [Interstitial Cystitis Association](#)
- [International Pelvic Pain Society](#)
- [Vulvodynia Association](#)
- [Vulvar Pain Foundation](#)
- [Pudendal Neuralgia Association](#)
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**Tell Me More!**

Other Websites Helpful in Pelvic Pain and Pelvic Floor Conditions:

- [World Federation for Incontinence and Pelvic Problems](#)
- [Urology Care Foundation](#)
- [Harvard Medical School Patient Education Center](#)
- [Continence Product Advisor](#)



**Video - Nerve Blocks for Pelvic Pain**

← Pain Specialists Alexandra Adler MD and Antje Barneveld MD, Explain the Roles of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Injections for Pelvic Pain  
10 Minute [Video](#)

Images: iStock and <http://www.elsevier.com>



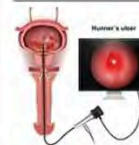
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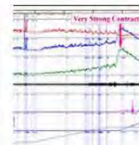
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**Elise De, MD**  
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Master Pelvic Pain in 32 Sessions  
ICS Global Pelvic Pain Exchange: Education for Clinicians Caring for People with Pelvic Pain  
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4.7K views • 1 year ago

Inflating Balloon in Male Anatomy  
1.5K views • 1 year ago

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What is a PVR?  
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High Tone Pelvic Floor Muscles

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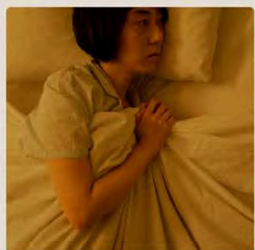


| <b>Vulvar / Vaginal Treatments</b>                 | <b>Tried?</b> | <b>Relief?</b> | <b>Still Using?</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Avoidance of Irritants (select toilet paper, soap) |               |                |                     |

# www.facingpelvicpain.org

## The Treatment Map

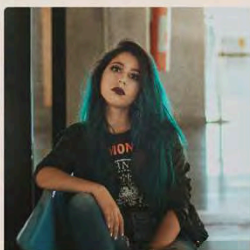
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steroid (clobetasol, hydrocortisone)     |               |                |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diazepam (Valium®) vaginal Suppositories |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baclofen (Lioresel®)                     |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lidocaine                                |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gabapentin (Neurontin®)                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amitriptyline (Elavil®)                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tacrolimus (Prograf®)                    |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naltrexone - low dose (Vivitrol®)        |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douches                                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Inserts                            |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wipes                                    |               |                |                     |
| <b>Hormonal Medications</b>                                       | <b>Tried?</b> | <b>Relief?</b> | <b>Still Using?</b> |
| Vaginal estrogen cream, tablet or ring                            |               |                |                     |
| Estrogen / progesterone pills or patches                          |               |                |                     |
| Hormone-secreting intrauterine device (Mirena®. Liletta®)         |               |                |                     |



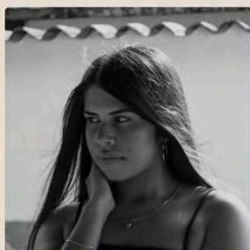
**SEXUAL DESIRE**  
**Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors & Sexual Dysfunction**  
EMILY BARKER, MD MPH, MD, MPH  
EMILYANN KEY, MPH, MPH  
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are medications effective in treating a variety of...



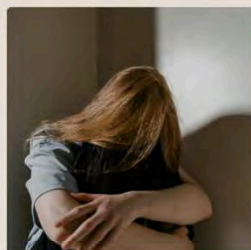
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Sexual Dysfunction in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**  
JAMES A. SIMON, MD, CCD, MSCP  
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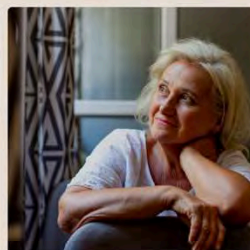
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Vulvar Aphthae**  
JENNA J. LULLO, MD  
Vulvar aphthae are painful ulcers on the skin of the vulva. They can significantly impact sexuality and...



**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) & Your Sexual Health**  
JAMES A. SIMON, MD, CCD, MSCP  
Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) is a common hormonal disorder affecting women of reproductive...



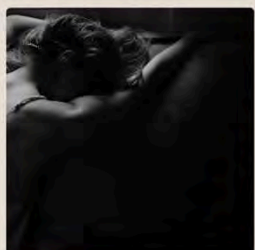
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Hidradenitis Suppurativa**  
JENNA J. LULLO, MD  
Hidradenitis suppurativa is a chronic, and often debilitating, skin condition in which painful, inflamed lesions...



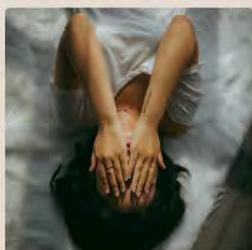
**TREATMENT**  
**Vaginal Estrogen For The Prevention Of Recurrent Urinary Tract Infections**  
CARLOS ZAPATA-CABALLERO, MD  
Recurrent urinary tract infections (rUTIs) are a significant concern for many women, particularly after...



**SEXUAL DESIRE**  
**How Menopause Affects Sexuality**  
GRETCHEN FREY, MD, FACOG  
For anyone with ovaries, the stage of life known as menopause will come along sometime between the late...



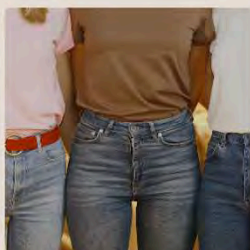
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Clitoral Adhesions**  
ANDREA MARTIN, DNP, CRNP, WHNP  
An estimated 23-33% of vulvar owners have clitoral adhesions.



**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Vaginismus**  
COREY R. BABB, DO, NCMP, IF, FACOG



**SEXUAL DESIRE**  
**Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder**  
DIANA BITNER, MD  
Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD) is a state of decreased sexual desire that has occurred as a chang...



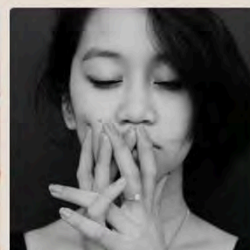
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Pelvic Floor Muscle Dysfunction**  
HEATHER QUAILÉ, DNP, WHNP-BC, CSC, SANE, IF  
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**Sex After Cancer**  
LAILA S. AGRAWAL, MD, IF  
Sexual health concerns are very common after a cancer diagnosis - and often treatable.



**Let's talk about sleep...(and sex)**  
JEWEL M. KLING, MD, MPH, NCMP, FACP  
It's easy to forget how important sleep is, but time and again, studies show sleep is critical to many aspec...



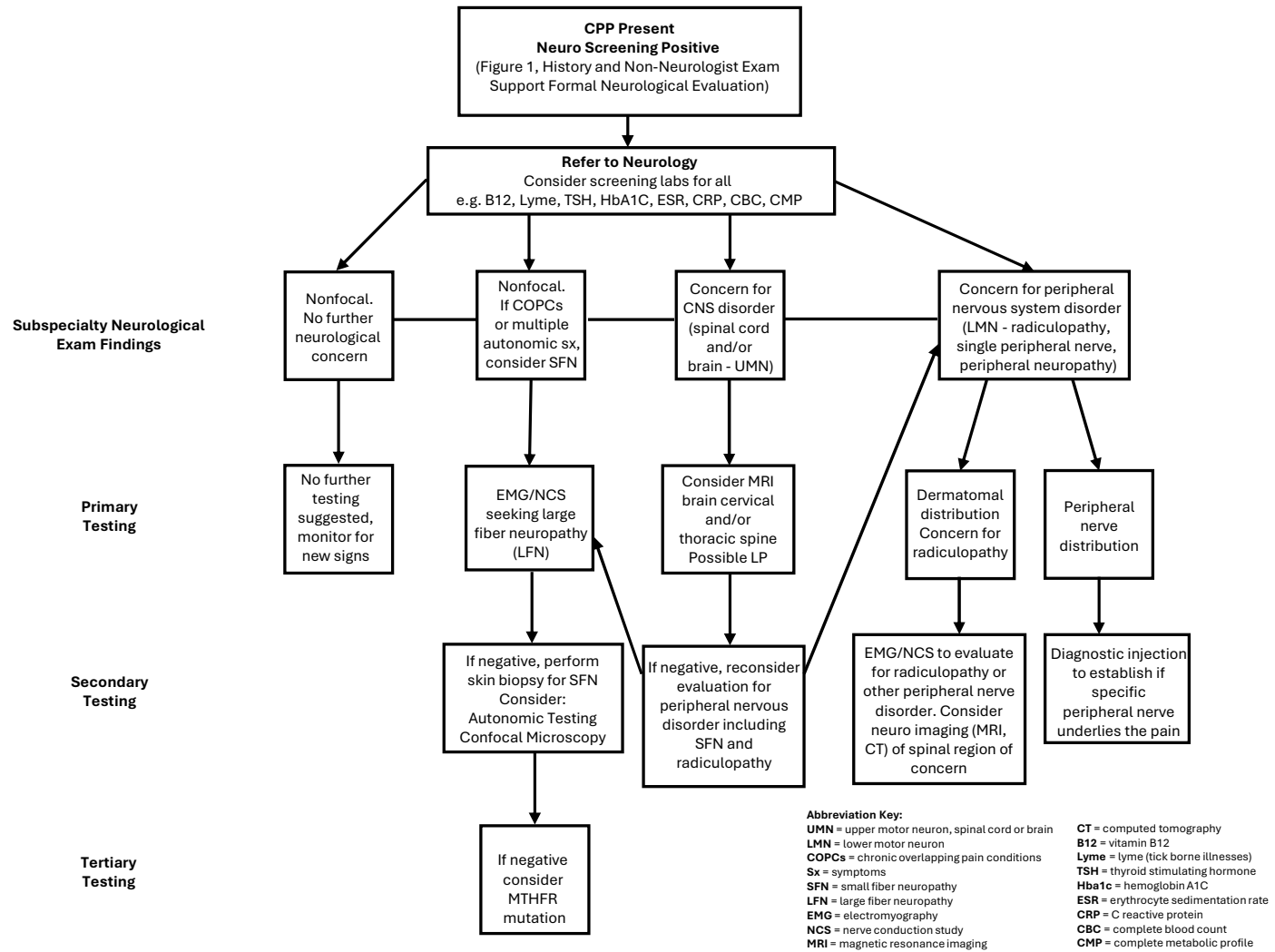
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Hormonally Mediated Vestibulodynia**  
RACHEL RUBIN, MD, IF, NCMP  
Vestibulodynia is a general term used to describe pain in the vestibule. The vestibule is the tissu...

**Figure 1: Screening criteria used to trigger referral of patients with CPP for neurological evaluation.**

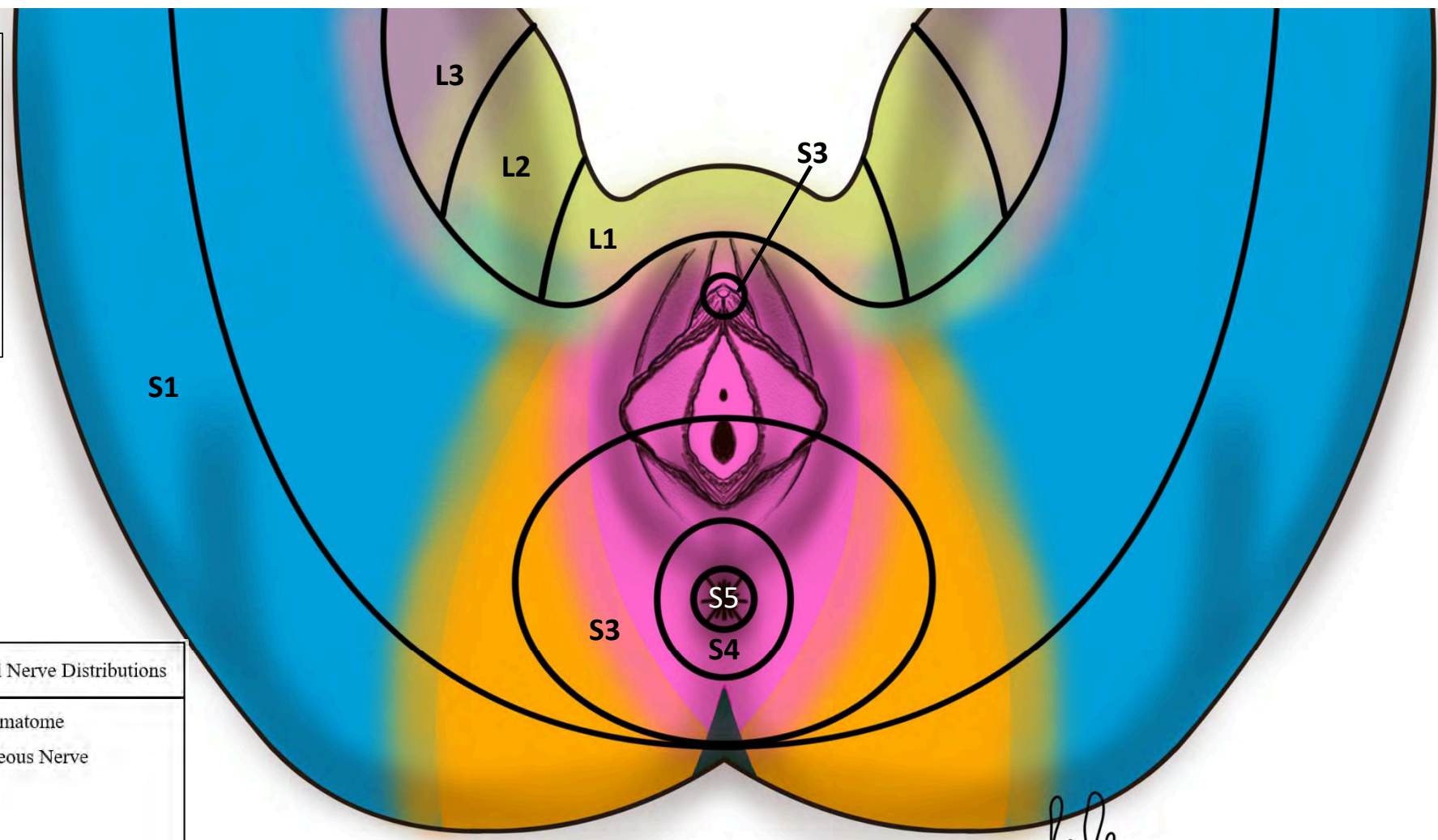
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- Pain, sensory disturbance, or weakness referable to:
  - a specific nerve root
  - peripheral nerve distribution
  - a pattern consistent with a central nervous system etiology
- Combination bladder, bowel, sexual, or pain symptoms referable to lumbosacral spine pathology
- Balance or gait alteration
- Abnormal reflexes, sensation, or weakness on cursory neurological examination
- Upper motor neuron findings or unexplained hypotonia on urodynamics
- Evidence of autonomic dysfunction (including interstitial cystitis, irritable bowel syndrome, erectile dysfunction, persistent genital arousal disorder, arrhythmia, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome), and/or chronic overlapping pain syndromes (COPCs, including pelvic pain, migraine, endometriosis, temporomandibular joint pain, sensitive feet, fibromyalgia)
- Pelvic pain refractory to musculoskeletal and organ-based interventions

**Neurologist's Diagnostic Algorithm in people with CPP referred by pelvic health for a positive Neurological Screening.**  
 This is a basic guide, not to replace subspecialty neurological evaluation. Copyright retained by the authors.

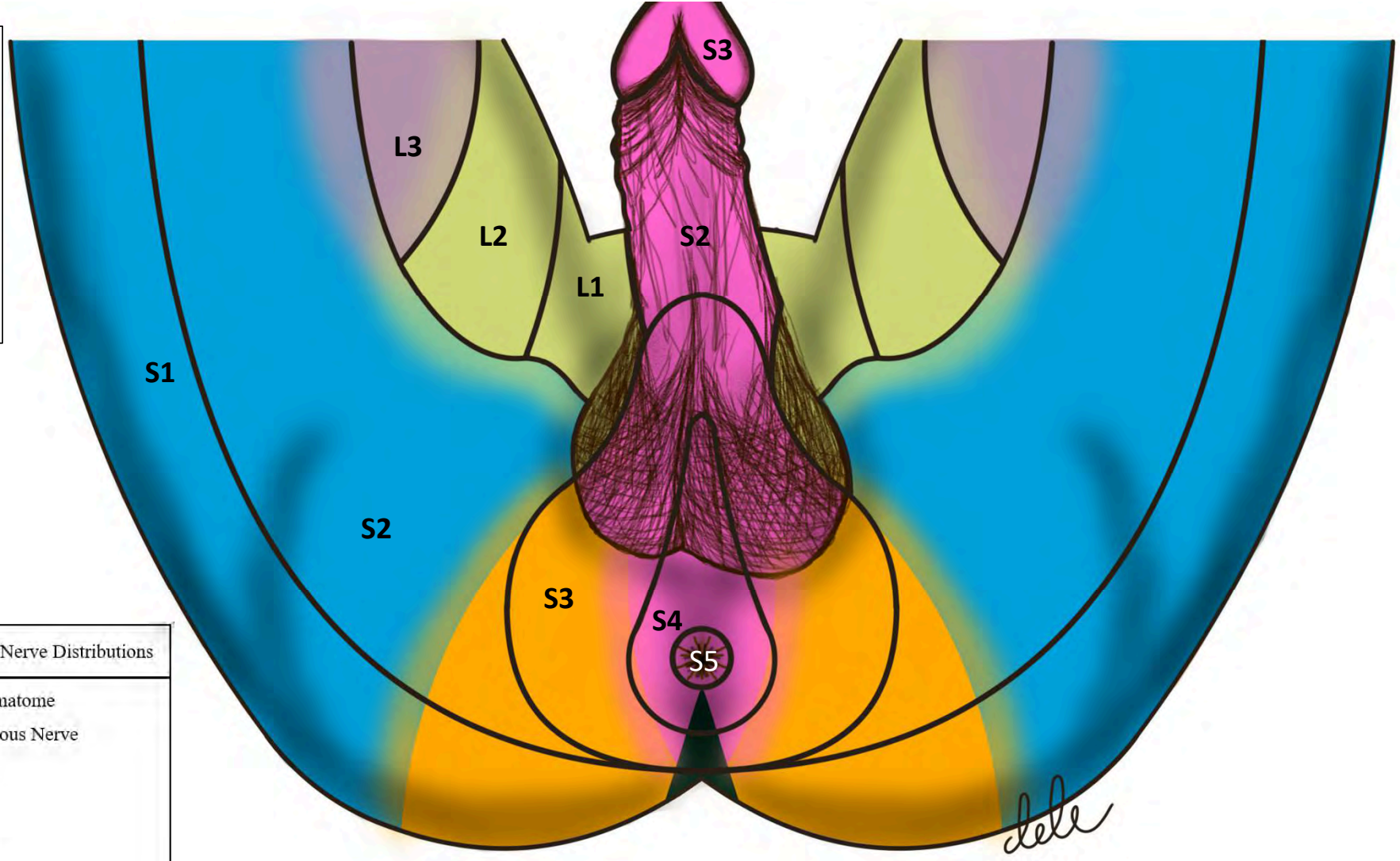


Peripheral nerve distributions (color) and spinal nerve root dermatomes (black lines) can indicate which nerves are causing pain.



- Dermatomes and Peripheral Nerve Distributions**
- Spinal Nerve Root Dermatome
  - Posterior Femurocutaneous Nerve
  - Inferior cluneal Nerve
  - Pudendal Nerve
  - Genitofemoral Nerve
  - Obturator Nerve
  - Coccygeal plexus

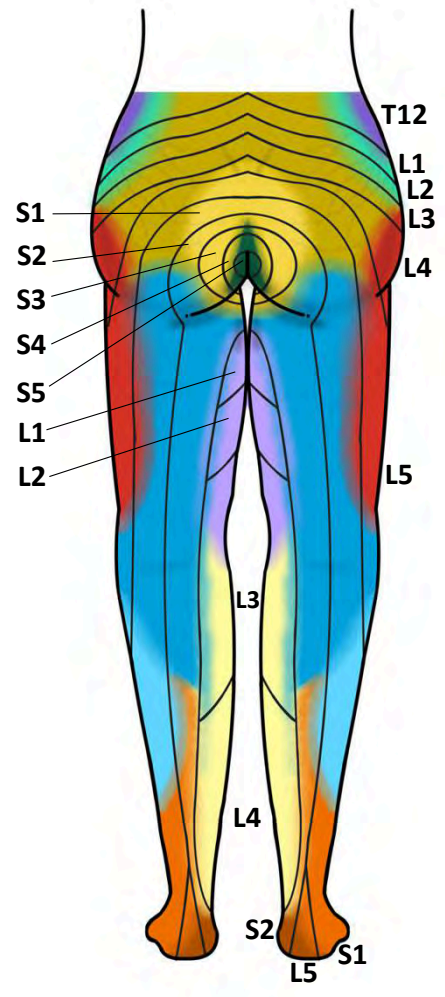
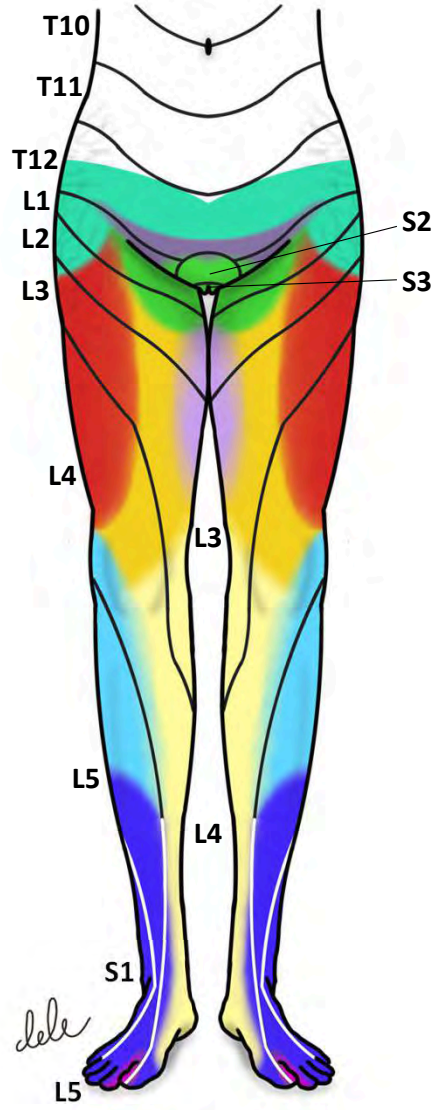
Peripheral nerve distributions (color) and spinal nerve root dermatomes (black lines) can indicate which nerves are causing pain.



| Dermatomes and Peripheral Nerve Distributions |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| —                                             | Spinal Nerve Root Dermatome     |
| ●                                             | Posterior Femurocutaneous Nerve |
| ●                                             | Inferior cluneal Nerve          |
| ●                                             | Pudendal Nerve                  |
| ●                                             | Genitofemoral Nerve             |
| ●                                             | Obturator Nerve                 |
| ●                                             | Coccygeal plexus                |

*dele*

| Key of Spinal Nerve Root Dermatomes and Peripheral Nerve Distributions |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| —                                                                      | Spinal Nerve Root Dermatome        |
| ●                                                                      | Iliohypogastric Nerve              |
| ●                                                                      | Ilioinguinal Nerve                 |
| ●                                                                      | Genitofemoral Nerve                |
| ●                                                                      | Lateral Femoral Cutaneous Nerve    |
| ●                                                                      | Femoral Nerve                      |
| ●                                                                      | Obturator Nerve                    |
| ●                                                                      | Posterior Femorocutaneous Nerves   |
| ●                                                                      | Femoral Nerve (Saphenous Branch)   |
| ●                                                                      | Common Fibular Nerve (superficial) |
| ●                                                                      | Common Fibular Nerve (deep)        |
| ●                                                                      | Posterior Femorocutaneous Nerves   |
| ●                                                                      | Superior Cluneal Nerve             |
| ●                                                                      | Middle Cluneal Nerve               |
| ●                                                                      | Tibial Nerve (Sural)               |
| ●                                                                      | Tibial Nerve                       |
| ●                                                                      | Coccygeal Plexus                   |



Nucelio Lemos, MD,  
 PhD and Diba De, BS  
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**Trans-gluteal Pudendal**  
**Implant Video**  
**SCAN QR CODE**



# Sacral Tarlov perineurial cysts: a systematic review of treatment options

Jan Alberto Paredes Mogica, MD,<sup>1</sup> Frank Feigenbaum, MD,<sup>2</sup> Julie G. Pilitsis, MD, PhD, MBA,<sup>3</sup> Rudolph J. Schrot, MD, MAS,<sup>4</sup> Anne Louise Oaklander, MD, PhD,<sup>5</sup> and Elise J. B. De, MD<sup>6</sup>

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J Neurosurg Spine December 15, 2023

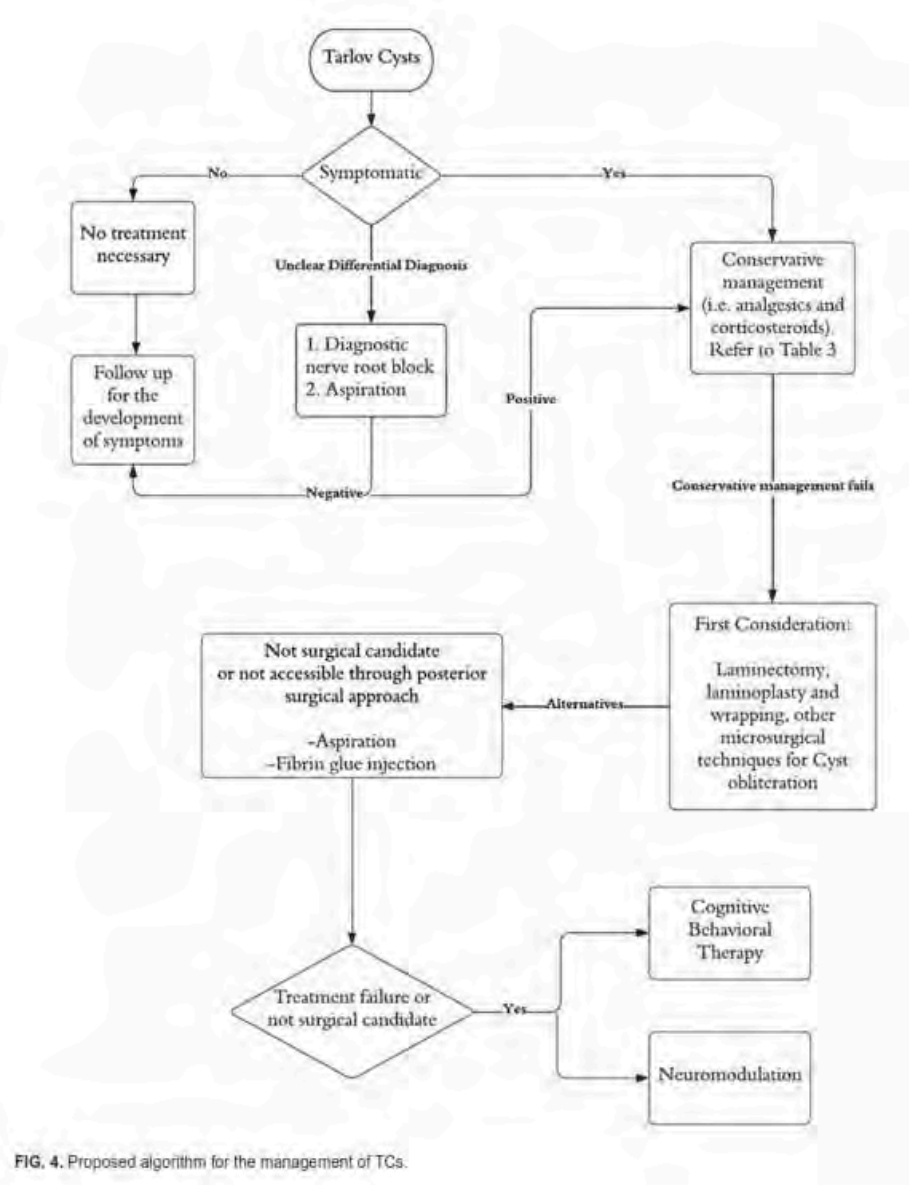


FIG. 4. Proposed algorithm for the management of TCs.

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Post vasectomy pain syndrome (PVPS) is a difficult condition to treat. Part of the problem is our lack of understanding...

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Dr. Sijo Parekattil Named Among Top Physicians in

# Books

## Facing Pelvic Pain

Home Educational Resources Recommended Books Facing Pelvic Pain Authors Buy Now

### Excellent Books on Pelvic Pain in Any Gender

This hand-picked list of books is recommended by many of our authors to their patients. Use these resources to learn more ...and improve quality of life.

**FACING PELVIC PAIN**  
A Guide for Patients and Their Families

45 experts in 18 fields explain all pelvic pain

Facing Pelvic Pain by Elise JB De M/D Theodore A Stern M/D  
[See on Amazon](#)

**A Headache in the Pelvis**  
The Widespread Protocol for Healing Pelvic Pain

Physical therapy and meditative relaxation

A Headache in the Pelvis by Deborah Wise PhD Rooney Anderson MD  
[See on Amazon](#)

**SEX WITHOUT PAIN**  
The Zalkman Guide To The Sex Life You Deserve

Home fixes for women with pain during sex

Sex Without Pain by Heather Jaffcoat DPT  
[See on Amazon](#)

**unlearn your pain**  
A 28-DAY PROCESS TO REPROGRAM YOUR BRAIN

Guide to using your mind body connection.

Unlearn Your Pain by Eric Keller Anst Howard Schubiner M/D Michael Betzold Author  
[See on Amazon](#)

**WHY DO I HURT?**  
A PATIENT BOOK ABOUT THE NEUROSCIENCE OF PAIN

Explains how the brain processes pain

Why Do I Hurt by Adnaan Looq PT PhD CSMT  
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**Heal Pelvic Pain**

A Proven Stretching, Strengthening, and Nutrition Program for Relieving Pain, Incontinence, IBS, and Other Symptoms Without Surgery

Home based holistic cures for pelvic pain

Heal Pelvic Pain by Amy Stein MPT  
[See on Amazon](#)

**beating endo**  
how to reclaim your life from endometriosis

Explains endometriosis and how to take charge

Beating Endo by Iris Kerin Orbach MD Amy Stein DPT  
[See on Amazon](#)

**BREAKING THROUGH CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN**  
A Holistic Approach for Relief

Holistic approach to pain by gynecologists

Breaking Through Chronic Pelvic Pain by Jerome Weiss MD Jacques Beas MD  
[See on Amazon](#)

**ENDING MALE PELVIC PAIN**

Home help program

Ending Male Pelvic Pain by Isa Herrera MSPT, CSCS  
[See on Amazon](#)

**The Pain Management WORKBOOK**

Powerful CBT and Mindfulness Skills to Take Control of Pain and Restore Your Life

Biopsychosocial / CBT approach to pain

The Pain Management Workbook by Rachel Zeffress MS PhD Mark A. Schumacher MD PhD  
[See on Amazon](#)

**Small Nerves, Big Problems**  
A comprehensive patient guide to trigger point neuropathy

Resource by neurologists on small fiber neuropathy

Small Nerves, Big Problems by Todd Levine MD David Saperstein MD Charles Argoff MD Christopher Gibbons MD MWSc Holly Harwin MD PhD Mamatha Pasoori MD David Walk MD Glenn Ippolito  
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**It's Not Just a Bladder Disease!**

Education and self help for pain by gynecologist

When It Hurts Down There by Amy Stein MPT, CSCS  
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**pelvic pain explained**

Anatomy, diagnosis and treatment - PT focus

Pelvic Pain Explained by Stephanie Pradoligo DPT, MPT Elizabeth Rimmer MPT  
[See on Amazon](#)

**Healing Pelvic and Abdominal Pain**  
The ultimate home program for patients and a guide for practitioners

DVD home program for pelvic pain in all genders

Healing Pelvic and Abdominal Pain by Amy Stein DPT, SCS-PMD  
[See on Amazon](#)

**when it hurts DOWN THERE**

15 Proven Techniques

Education and self help for pain by gynecologist

When It Hurts Down There by Amy Stein MPT, CSCS  
[See on Amazon](#)

# Websites

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- American Urogynecological Society (AUGS): <https://www.voicesforpfd.org/>
- American College of Ob-Gyn: <https://www.acog.org/>
- American Physical Therapy Association: <https://www.apta.org/>
- Herman Wallace Institute: <https://pelvicrehab.com/>
- Beth Shelly DPT: <https://www.bethshelly.com/new-patients/pelvic-pain-and-spasms/>
- Global Pelvic Health Alliance: <https://pelvicguru.com/>
- Endometriosis Association: <https://endometriosisassn.org/>
- National Health Service (NHS.UK):
  - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/endometriosis/>
  - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/fibroids/>
  - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vulvodynia/>
  - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pelvic-inflammatory-disease-pid/>
  - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pelvic-pain/>
  - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pudendal-neuralgia/>
- International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders: <https://iffgd.org/>
- Interstitial Cystitis Network: <https://www.ic-network.com/>
- Interstitial Cystitis Association: <https://www.ichelp.org/>
- International Pelvic Pain Society: <https://www.pelvicpain.org/>
  - <https://www.pelvicpain.org/public/resources/educational-resources/informational-handouts>
  - <https://app.v1.statusplus.net/membership/provider/index?society=ipps&t=public>
- Facing Pelvic Pain: Video and Written Resources on all Causes of Pelvic Pain:
  - <https://www.facingpelvicpain.org/pain-in-pelvis-patient-education>
- Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute:
  - <https://tapmipain.ca/patient/managing-my-pain/>
- World Federation for Incontinence and Pelvic Problems: <https://wfipp.org/>
- Vulvodynia Association: <https://www.nva.org/>
- Vulvar Pain Foundation: <https://www.thevpfoundation.org/>
- Pudendal Neuralgia Association: <https://www.pudendalassociation.org/>
- Pudendal HOPE: <http://www.pudendalhope.info/>
- Neuropathy Commons: <https://neuropathycommons.org/>

## **AUA Course 013IC - 10 Must-Knows for Pelvic Pain - To Always Do and Never Miss**

Friday May 15, 2026 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Five experts impart what they want learners to ALWAYS CATCH and NEVER MISS in the approach to pelvic pain. These must-knows will be presented in clear, highly visual image and video-rich case vignettes, bringing medical and surgical pearls alive through real life case examples. The course is ideal for APPs and MDs to attend together for practice building, or for trainees to optimize efficiency in approach to pelvic pain. This year's course builds on the foundation of our 2025 course, carrying many of the same themes (differential diagnosis, multispecialty care, surgical versus medical management).

### **Objectives:**

- Recognize 5 essential oft-missed situations with pelvic pain and address like an expert
- Manage 5 foundational causes of pelvic pain we know you can master
- Offer patients with pelvic pain relevant surgeries and procedures, diagnostics and medications.
- Triage multidisciplinary needs that fall outside of Urology according to guidelines.

| Course Schedule – 2 Hours |                                                                                                                                  |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 10 min                    | 1 - Introduction of Speakers<br>- Stated assumptions of audience knowledge                                                       | Elise De             |
| 15 min                    | 2 - Always Do – <b>Identify HTPFD</b><br>Never Miss – <b>Pudendal neuralgia</b>                                                  | Ken Peters           |
| 15 min                    | 3 - Always Do – <b>Look beyond IC</b><br>Never Miss – <b>Sacral pathology</b>                                                    | Elise De             |
| 15 min                    | 4 - Always Do – <b>ID bladder centric pain pre- cystectomy</b><br>Never Miss – <b>Pyocystis</b>                                  | Brian Inouye         |
| 15 min                    | Discussion, Q and A, Audience Cases                                                                                              | Audience and Faculty |
| 10 min                    | 5 - Always do – <b>Use targeted therapies prior to excision</b><br>Never miss - <b>Upper tract cause of scrotal content pain</b> | Sijo Parekattil      |
| 15 min                    | 6 - Always Do – <b>Examine the vulva</b><br>Never Miss – <b>Endometriosis</b>                                                    | Jennifer Pollard     |
| 20 min                    | Facilitated Discussion, Q and A, Audience Cases                                                                                  | Audience and Faculty |
| 5 min                     | 7 - Tools for Practice                                                                                                           | Elise De             |

Elise JB De, MD (she/her/hers)  
Professor Urology, Ob Gyn, Neurology- Medical Director, MultiD Pelvic Health  
Albany Medical Center, Albany New York  
Instructional Course Director

Kenneth Peters, MD (he/him/his)  
Professor and Chair of Urology  
Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

Brian Inouye MD (he/him/his)  
Assistant Professor of Urology  
Albany Medical Center, Albany New York

Sijo Parekattil, MD (he/him/his)  
Avant Concierge Urology

Jennifer Pollard, MD (she/her/hers)  
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Albany Medical Center, Albany New York

# QR CODES to Link to online Videos of Pudendal Nerve Implant Procedures

Ishio-rectal Pudendal  
Implant Video  
SCAN QR CODE



Trans-gluteal Pudendal  
Implant Video  
SCAN QR CODE



## ICS Global Pelvic Pain Exchange Curriculum: QR Codes

Main page

[ics.org/pelvicpain](https://ics.org/pelvicpain)

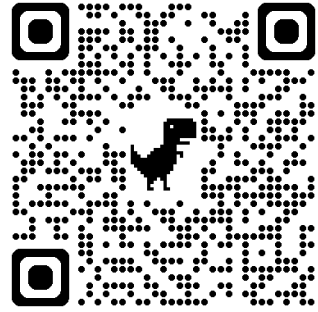
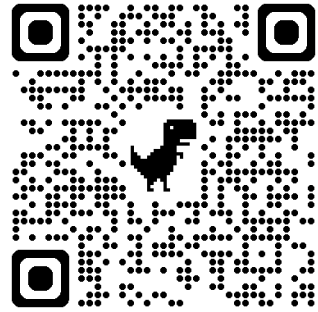
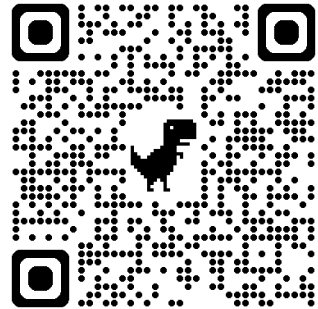


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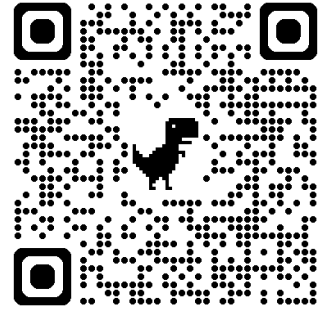


Meet the Curriculum Team

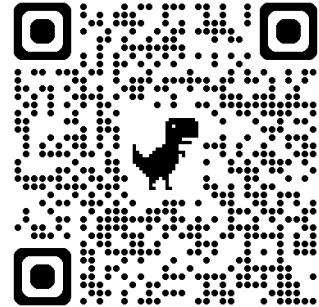


**“HOW TO”: BASIC APPROACHES TO PELVIC PAIN**

Link to entire section



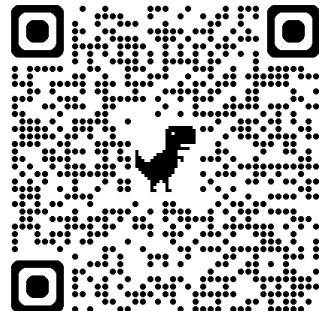
1. Introduction to Basic Approaches to Pelvic Pain (1:27)  
Miklos Romics, MD, PhD, FEBU



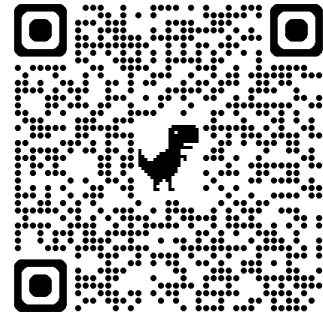
2. The Right Attitude for the Assessment of Pelvic Pain:  
Patient Perspective (13:06)  
Jill Osborne, MA



3. Differential Diagnosis in Pelvic Pain (21:42)  
Elise De, MD



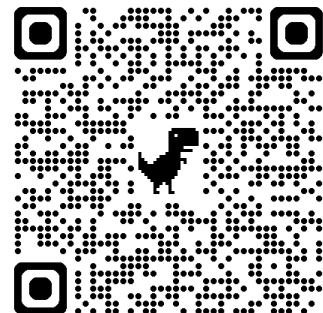
4. Questions and Comments – Basic Approaches – Part 1 (3:07)



5. Basic Physical Exam Findings: Uro, Gyn, Colorectal, Ortho, and Neuro (19:38)  
Elise De, MD; Jennifer Pollard, MD; Peter Onody, MD;  
Andrew Dubin, MS, MD



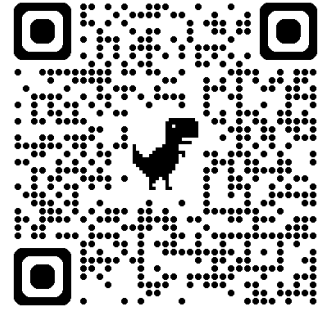
6. General Approach to Imaging Pelvic Pain (11:01)  
Mukesh Harisinghani, MBBS



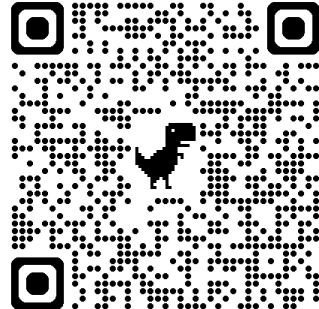
7. Multidisciplinary Care Team: Building Tools and Basic Approaches (5:00)  
Miklos Romics, MD, PhD, FEBU



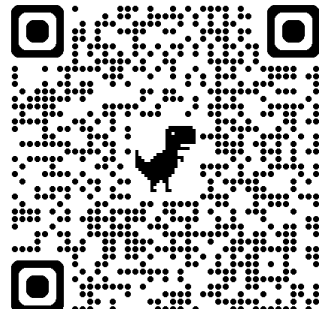
8. Trauma Informed Care (10:05)  
Nelly Faghani, PT



9. Questions and Comments - Basic Approaches – Part 2

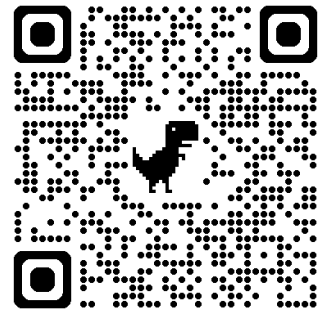


10. Closing and Resources for Pelvic Pain (1:20)  
Elise De, MD

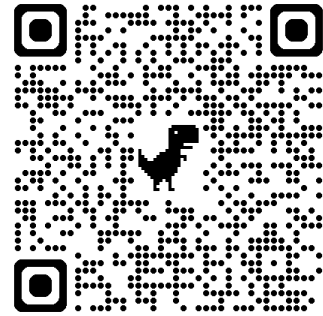


**ORGAN-BASED PELVIC PAIN**

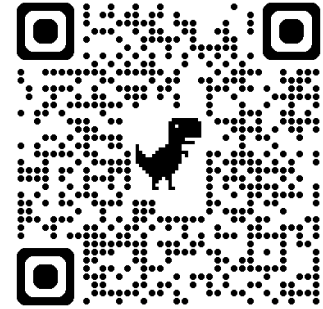
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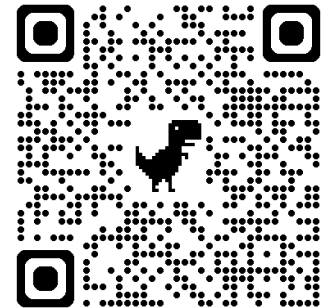
1. Introduction to Organ-Based Pain (2:08)  
Elise De, MD



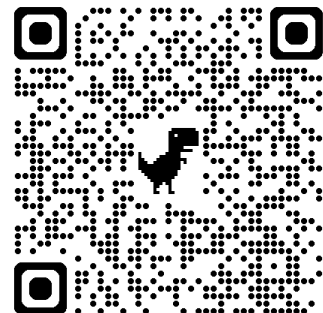
2. Gynecology: Internal Causes for Pain  
Augusta Morgado Ribeiro, MD



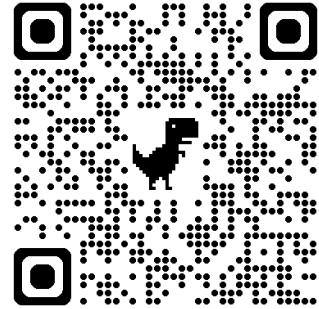
3. Gynecology: External Causes for Pain  
Rachel Rubin, MD



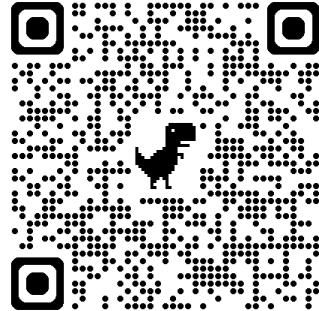
4. Questions and Comments – Organ-Based Pain – Part 1  
(10:28)



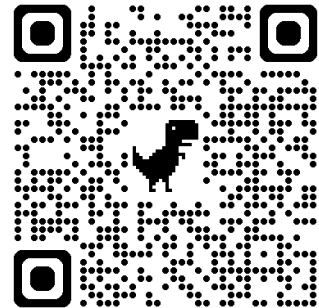
5. Urological Causes for Pelvic Pain (12:23)  
Miklos Romics, MD, PhD, FEBU



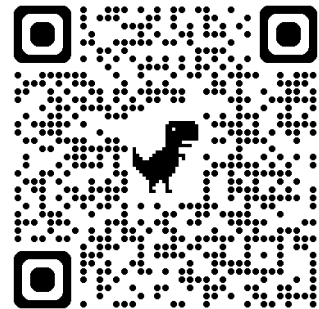
6. Scrotal Pain: Contemporary Management for Chronic Orchialgia (11:04)  
Sijo Parakattil, MD



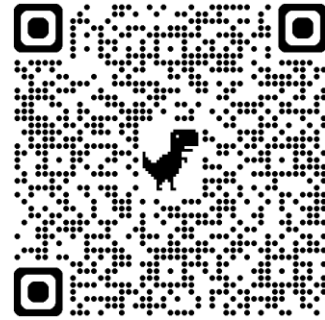
7. Intro to Colorectal Pain (2:24)  
Miklos Romics, MD, PhD, FEBU



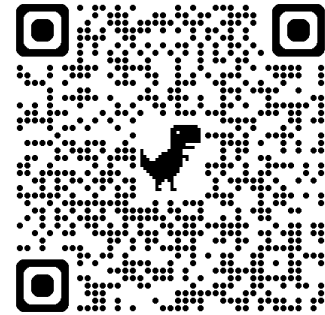
8. Anorectal Pain (13:12)  
Peter Onody, MD



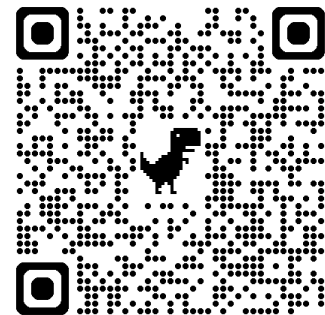
9. Case Presentation: Difficult Case Involving Cystocele and Prolapse (21:57)  
Peter Onody, MD



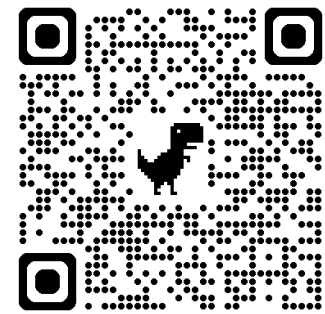
10. Multidisciplinary Diagnoses of Pelvic/Rectal Pain (23:31)  
Guillaume Meurette, MD, PhD



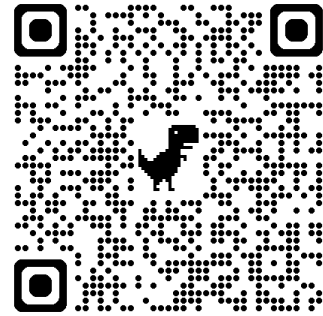
11. Anorectal Pain: GI/Neurogastroenterology Perspective (17:08)  
Barbara Nath, MD



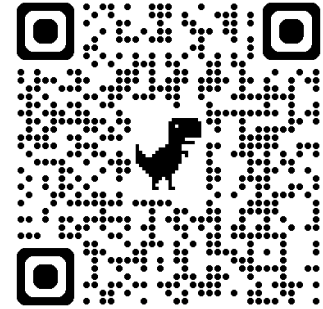
12. Imaging for Organ-Based Pelvic Pain (11:06)  
Mukesh Harisinghani, MBBS



13. Questions and Comments – Organ-Based Pain – Part 2  
(8:28)

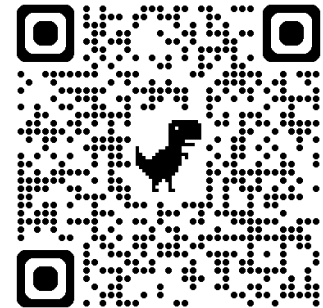


14. Closing and Spontaneous Case (5:56)  
Philip Bearn, MD

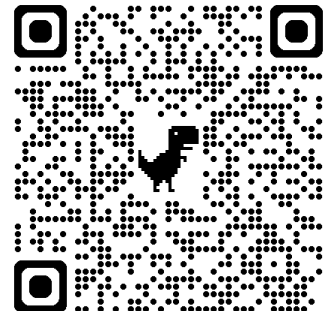


**FOCAL NEUROLOGICAL PELVIC PAIN**

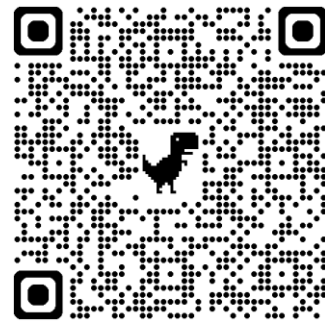
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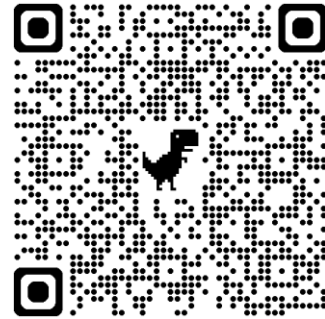
1. Basic Neurological Exam for Pelvic Pain (5:34)  
Daniel Milanovich, MD



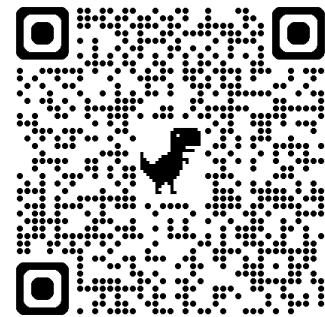
2. Neuropelvic Approach to Pelvic Pain: Intrapelvic Nerve Entrapments (16:13)  
Nucelio Lemos, MD, PhD



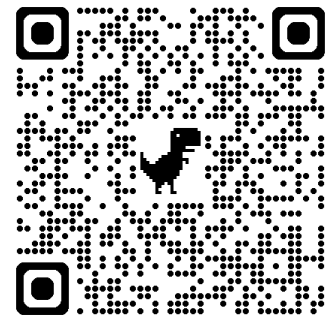
3. Role of Spinal Radiculopathy with a Focus on Tarlov Cysts (21:16)  
Rudolph Schrot, MD, MAS, FAANS



4. Complex Pelvic Pain: A Neurologic Perspective (15:00)  
Charles Argoff, MD

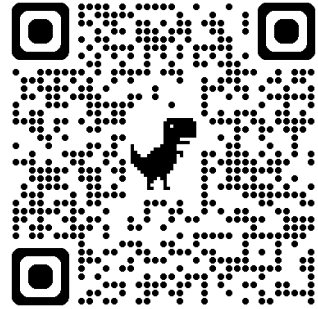


5. Questions and Comments – Focal Neurological Pain (20:42)

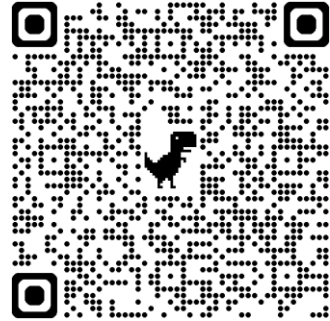


## **PUDENDAL NEUROPATHY AND PELVIC NERVE ENTRAPMENT**

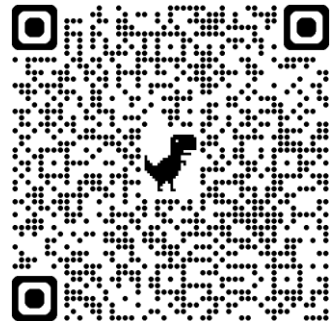
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1. Introduction to Pudendal Neuropathy and Pelvic Nerve Entrapment (1:47)  
Elise De, MD



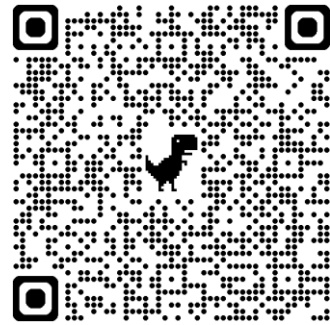
2. Case Presentation: Difficult Case Involving Pudendal Neuropathy (4:18)  
Miklos Romics, MD, PhD, FEBU



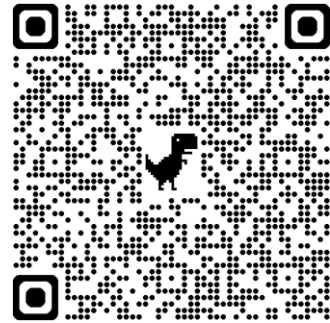
3. Interventional Options for Pudendal and Other Neuropathy (14:26)  
Antje Barreveld, MD, PhD



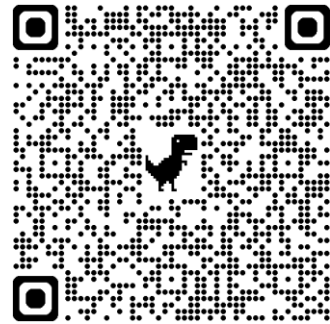
4. Neuropelveology Approach to Pelvic Pain: Focus on Pudendal Nerve (23:53)  
Nucelio Lemos, MD, PhD



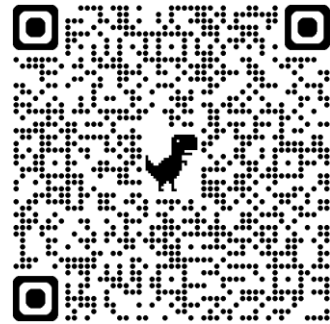
5. Clues, Physical Exam, and Electrodiagnostics in Pudendal Neuropathy (18:38)  
Andrew Dubin, MD, MS



6. Case Presentation: Penile Frostbite – A Case We Solved with Complex Pharm (13:16)  
Andrew Dubin, MD, MS

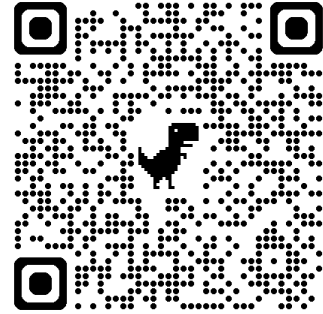


7. Questions and Comments – Pudendal Neuropathy and Pelvic Nerve Entrapment (8:27)

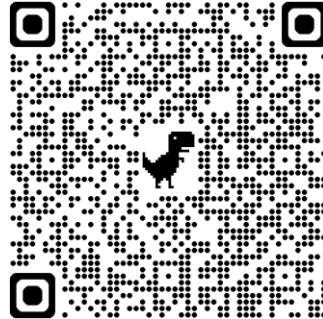


**PELVIC FLOOR MUSCLE TONE (PFM): WHY IS IT IMPORTANT AND HOW TO CHANGE IT**

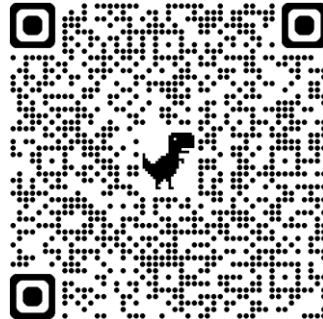
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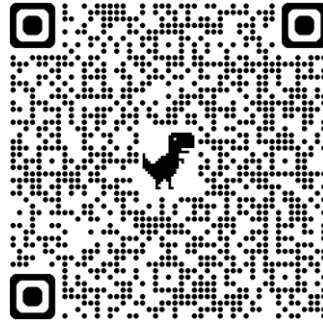
1. Intro and the Big Picture: PFM Dysfunction and Myalgia (5:32)  
Beth Shelly, PT, DPT



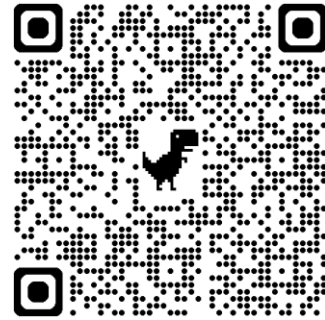
2. Disorders of Skeletal Muscle Tone and Treatments (15:22)  
Andrew Dubin, MD, MS



3. PFM Tone Assessment: Role in Pelvic Pain and Conservative Treatments (30:09)



4. Questions and Comments – PFM Tone (7:40)

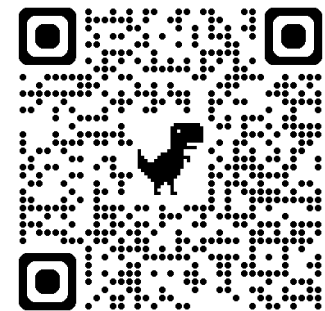


5. Case Presentation: Successful Case Involving Proctalgia, Tension Myalgia after Mesh Rectopexy (9:24)  
Sarina Niurkina, PT

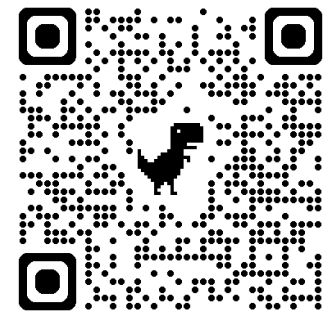


**PHYSIOTHERAPY OF PELVIC PAIN**

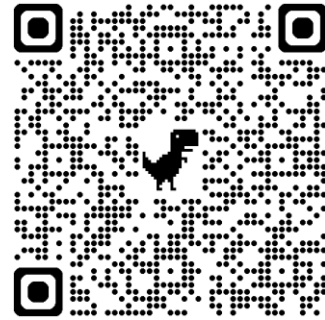
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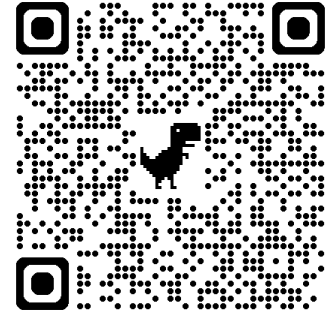
1. Whom I Send for Pelvic PT (5:25)  
Andrew Dubin, MD, MS



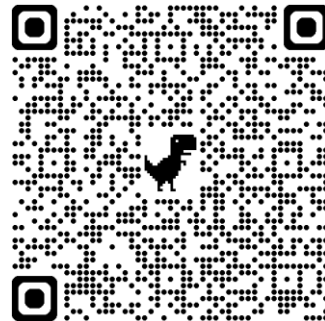
2. Case Presentation: Chronic Testicular/Penile Pain Refractory to PT (12:19)  
Liz O'Shaughnessy, PT, DPT



3. Beginner Pelvic PT for Chronic Pelvic Pain (20:48)  
Beth Shelly, PT, DPT



4. Case Presentation: Successful Case Involving Hypertonic Pelvic Floor in Multiple Sclerosis (12:56)  
Carin Cappadocia, PT, DPT

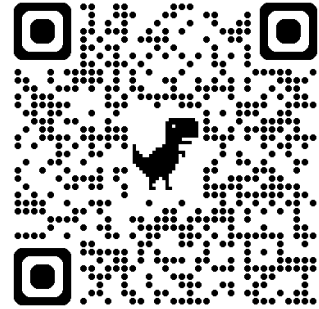


5. Pelvic Floor PT: Regional Difficulties and Opportunities (17:35)  
Marina Osokina, PT

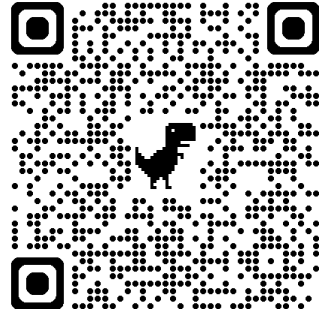


## **HIP CAUSES OF PELVIC PAIN**

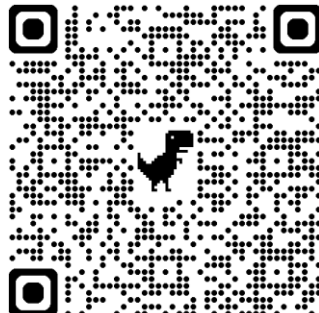
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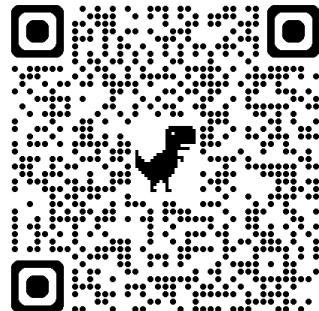
1. Introduction: When to Suspect the Hip (7:31)  
Elise De, MD



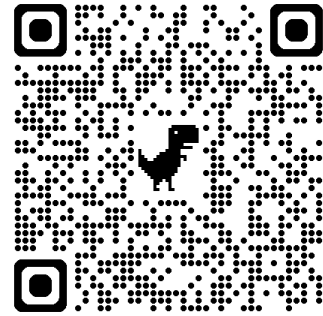
2. Case Presentation: Difficult Case Involving Dyskinesia  
Puborectalis (10:37)  
Benedetto Giardulli, MSc, PhD



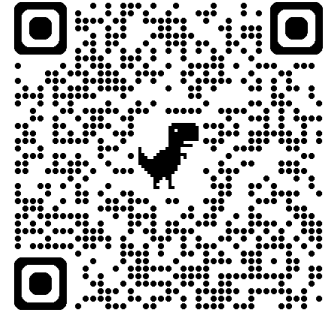
3. Hip Without Prior Injury: Deep Gluteal Syndrome (18:43)  
Hal David Martin, DO, FAAOS



4. Case Presentation: Successful Case Involving Broken Coccyx (9:28)  
Tatiana Shmakova, MD

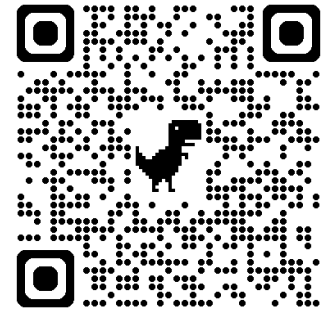


5. Hip/Pelvic Pain in Setting of Prior Injury (9:28)  
Andrew Dubin, MD, MS

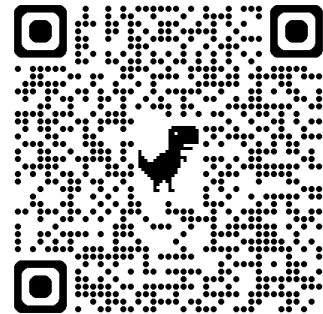


### **NEURODIAGNOSTICS FOR PELVIC PAIN**

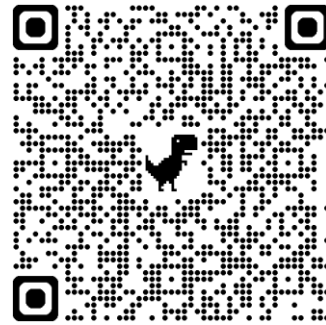
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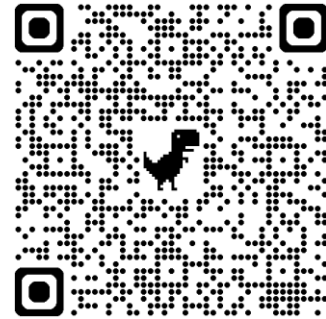
1. Introduction to Neurodiagnostics for Pelvic Pain (1:13)  
Elise De, MD



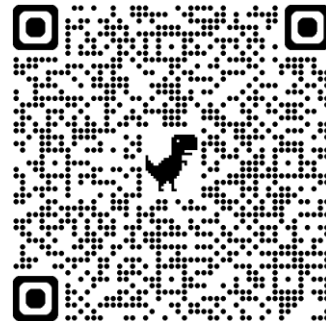
2. Case Presentation: Difficult Case Involving Endometriosis and S3 Nerve (6:19)  
Suzan Goldman, MD, PhD



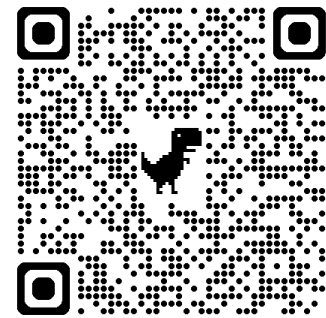
3. Indications for Neurodiagnostics in Chronic Pelvic Pain (14:22)  
Daniel Milanovich, MD



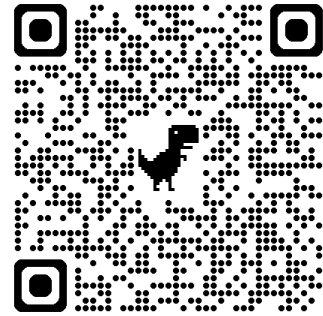
4. Case Presentation: Successful Case Involving Prostatitis, Bladder Outlet Obstruction, and Hernioplasty (8:41)  
Miklos Romics, MD, PhD, FEBU



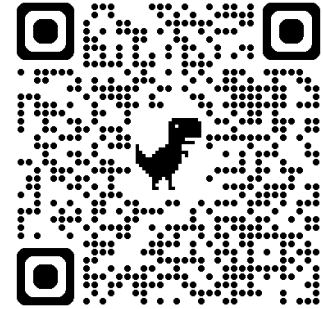
5. Electrodiagnostics and Clinical Considerations (34:22)  
Andrew Dubin, MD, MS



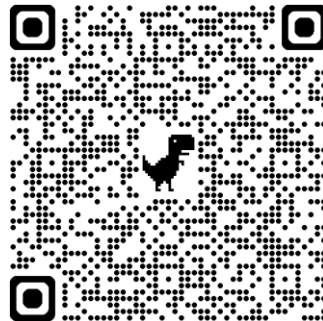
6. MRI Tractography on Pelvic Neuropathies (17:01)  
Suzan Goldman, MD, PhD



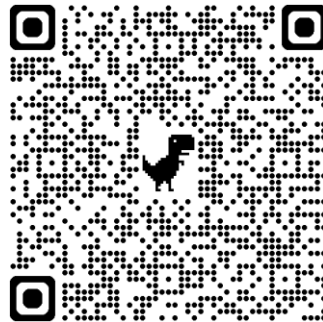
**TENS, BLOCKS, STIMULATION, AND PUMPS FOR PELVIC PAIN**  
Link to entire section



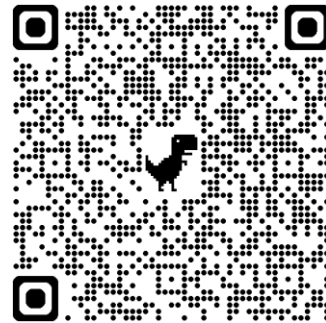
1. Case Presentation: Difficult Case Involving Sjogren's Syndrome, Failed Interstim, and Botox (5:31)  
Elise De, MD



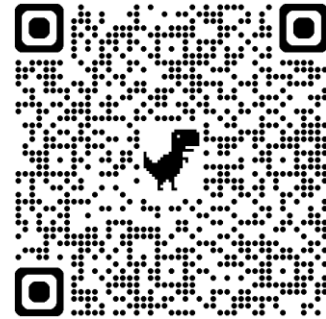
2. Noninvasive Stimulation: TENS in the Treatment of Chronic Pelvic Pain (7:32)  
Beth Shelly, PT, DPT



3. Percutaneous Neuromodulation: Peripheral Nerve Blocks “101” (11:37)  
Antje Barreveld, MD, PhD



4. Peripheral Neuromodulation for Chronic Pelvic Pain (11:12)  
Jason Gilleran, MD



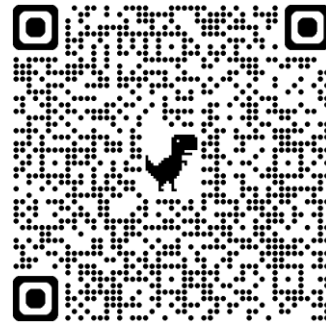
5. Intraspinal Stimulation for Pelvic Pain: Info for Referring Providers (22:42)  
Kevin Mansfield, MD, FAANS



6. Infusion Pumps: The 5 W's of INtrathecal Drug Delivery for Severe Chronic Pain (13:44)  
Charles Argoff, MD

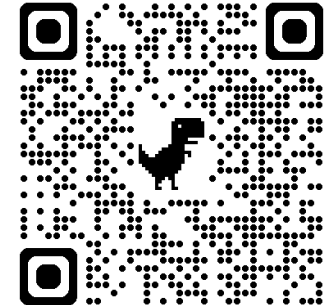


7. Case Presentation: Successful Case Involving TENS Treatment (8:35)  
Marton Weidl, PhD



**SYSTEMIC PAIN INVOLVING THE PELVIS**

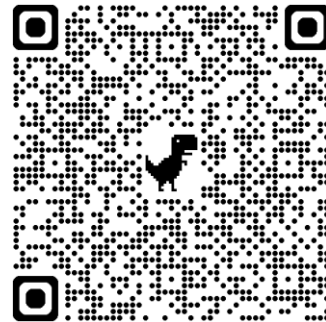
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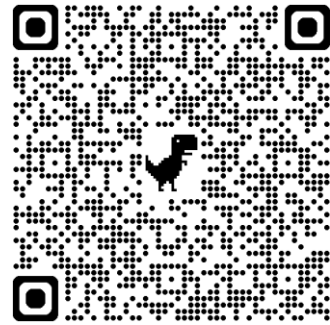
1. Introduction to Systemic Pain Involving the Pelvis (1:43)  
Miklos Romics, MD, PhD, FEBU



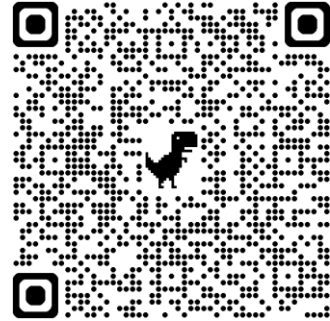
2. Case Presentation: Difficult Case Involving Spinal Stenosis Herniated Discs (11:35)  
Elise De, MD



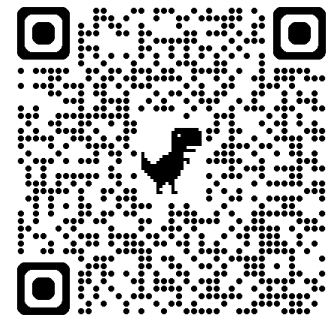
3. When is Chronic Pelvic Pain Associated with a Neurological or Systemic Disorder (15:16)  
Charles Argoff, MD



4. Case Presentation: Successful Case Involving Pelvic Dys-synergia and Stress-Induced Pelvic Pain (10:25)  
Beth Shelly, PT, DPT



5. Rheumatologic Perspective to Chronic Pelvic Pain (20:01)  
Richard Bryan, MD

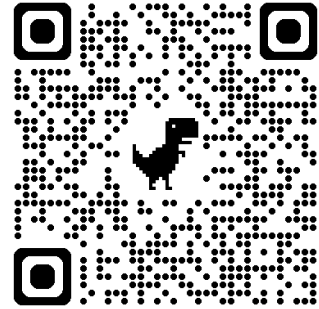


6. Managing Pelvic Pain (24:55)  
Tania Di Renna, MD

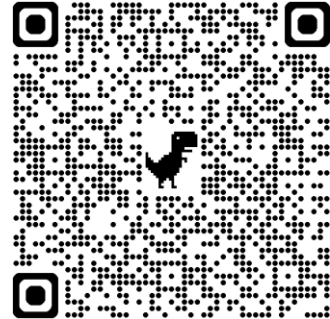


## **PAIN MANAGEMENT AND PHARMACOLOGY FOR PELVIC PAIN**

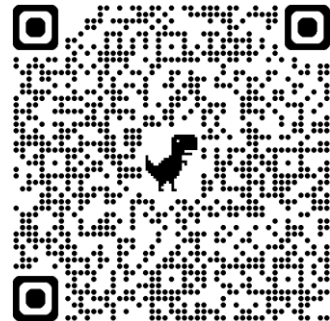
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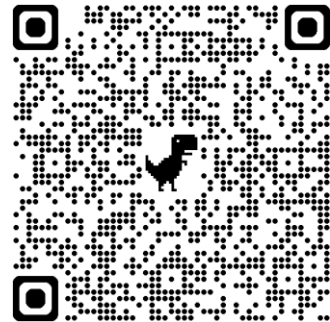
1. Introduction to Pain Management and Pharmacology for Pelvic Pain (2:02)  
Elise De, MD



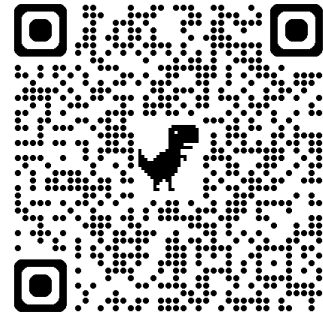
2. Pain Pathophysiology & Difficult Case Involving Hysterectomy and Adenomyosis (23:00)  
Tania Di Renna, MD



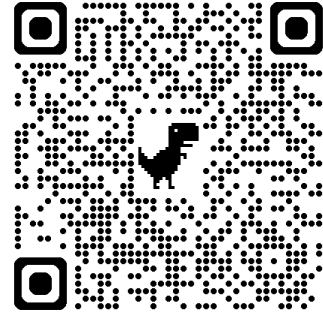
3. Case Presentation: Difficult Case Involving Medical Management (7:19)  
Balazs Laskoi, MD, FIPP



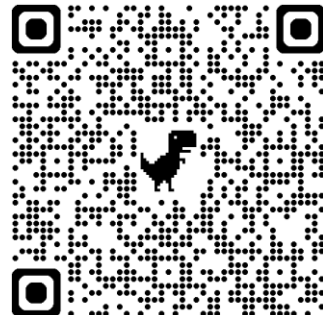
4. Pharmacotherapy in Pain Management (17:18)  
Charles Argoff, MD



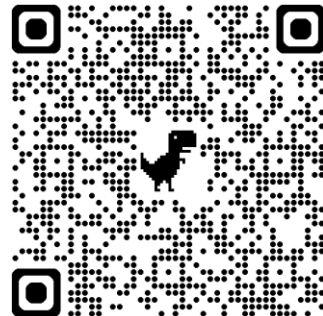
5. Pharmacology of Pain (17:50)  
Andrew Dubin, MD, MS



6. Questions and Comments – Pharmacology for Pain (12:17)

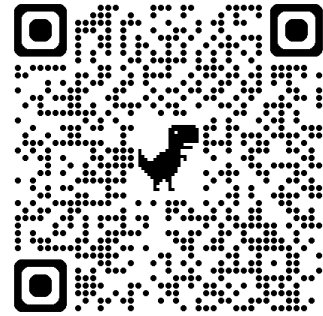


7. Questions and Comments – Pharm and Psych (3:11)



**PSYCHOLOGICAL AND COGNITIVE APPROACH TO PAIN,  
PATIENT EMPOWERMENT**

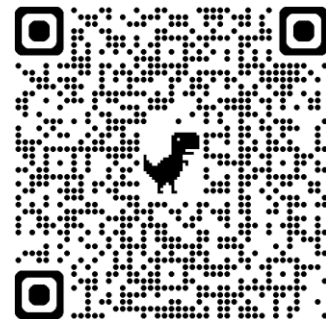
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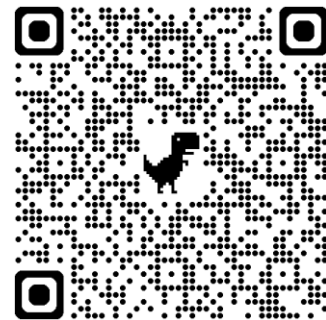
1. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome (13:40)  
Lindsey McKernan, PhD, MPH



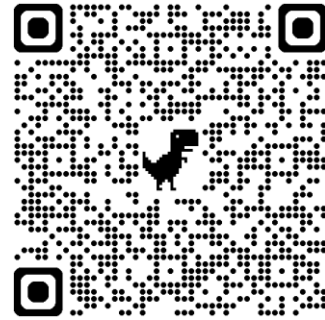
2. Patient Empowerment in Pain (27:22)  
Derek Coe, MS



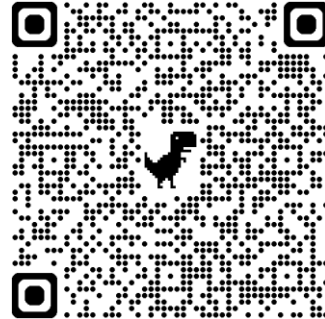
3. Patient Engagement (13:17)  
Jill Osborne, MA



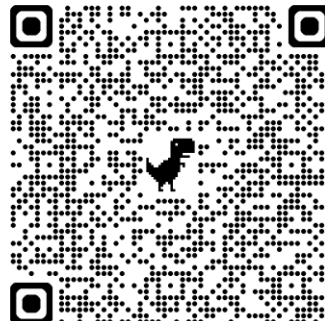
4. Psychological Aspects of Pelvic Pain (11:55)  
Anna Guttenger, PhD



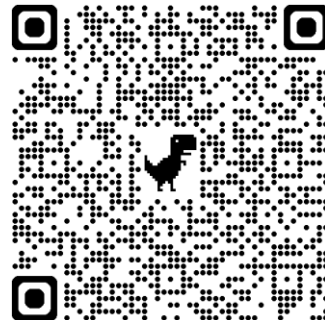
5. Yoga for Pelvic Pain and Chair Dwellers (14:51)  
Dustienne Miller, PT, MS, CYT



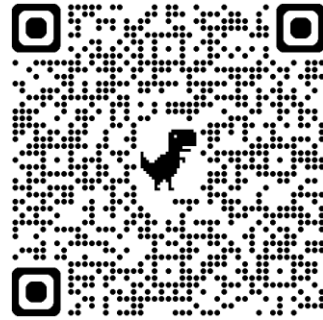
6. Case Presentation: Difficult Case Involving Acute Prostatitis and Nerve Block (25:57)  
Eva Pinter, PhD; Nora Nyilas, MD



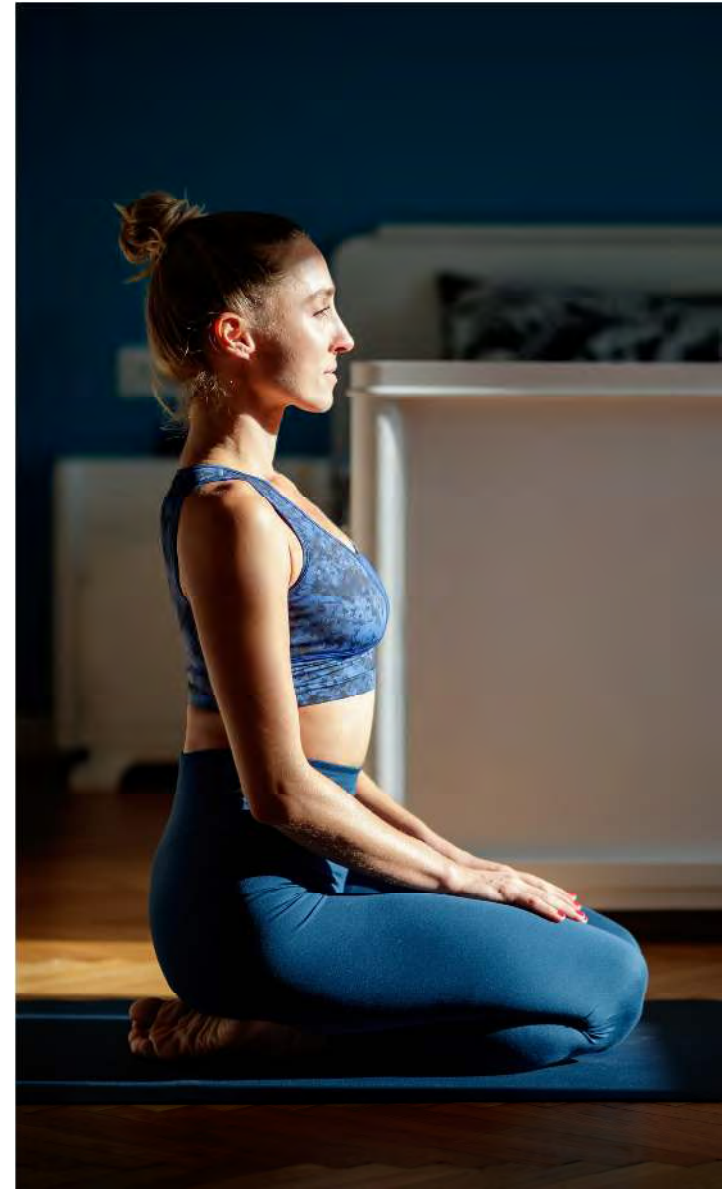
7. Psychological Experience of Providers: Healing the Healer (31:17)  
Sue Morris, PsyD



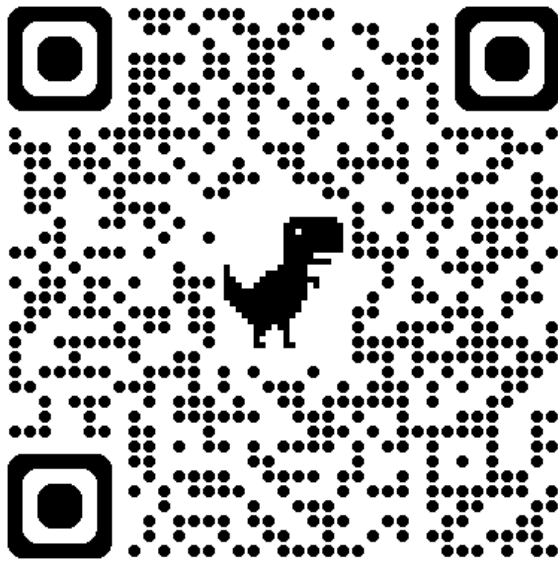
8. Closing and Resources (1:08)  
Elise De, MD



Tools for Practice  
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| <p><b>Pelvic Floor Muscle Tone (PFM): Why is it important and how to ...</b><br/>5 Episodes</p> | <p><b>Physiotherapy of Pelvic Pain</b><br/>5 Episodes</p>       | <p><b>Hip Causes of Pelvic Pain</b><br/>5 Episodes</p>                        | <p><b>Neurodiagnostics for Pelvic Pain</b><br/>6 Episodes</p>                          |
| <p><b>TENS, Blocks, Stimulation, and Pumps for Pelvic Pain</b><br/>7 Episodes</p>               | <p><b>Systemic Pain Involving the Pelvis</b><br/>6 Episodes</p> | <p><b>Pain Management and Pharmacology for Pelvic Pain</b><br/>7 Episodes</p> | <p><b>Psychological and Cognitive Approach to Pain, Patient ...</b><br/>8 Episodes</p> |

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## Diagnosis and Treatment of Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome

Published 2011

Philip M. Hanno  
John B. Forrest  
Christopher K. F...

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Purpose

This guideline is intended to provide a systematic review of the literature using the MEDLINE® database (search dates 1/1/63-7/22/09) was conducted to identify peer-reviewed publications relevant to the diagnosis and treatment of IC/BPS. The review yielded an evidence-based synthesis of treatment articles after application of inclusion/exclusion criteria. The AUA Update Literature Review process was used to synthesize additional systematic reviews conducted in or after 2002. These publications were included in the body of the guideline. Additional treatment options are listed. See text and algorithm for details.

#### Methodology

A systematic review of the literature using the MEDLINE® database (search dates 1/1/63-7/22/09) was conducted to identify peer-reviewed publications relevant to the diagnosis and treatment of IC/BPS. The review yielded an evidence-based synthesis of treatment articles after application of inclusion/exclusion criteria. The AUA Update Literature Review process was used to synthesize additional systematic reviews conducted in or after 2002. These publications were included in the body of the guideline. Additional treatment options are listed. See text and algorithm for details.

## GUIDELINE

### CUA guideline: Diagnosis and treatment of bladder pain syndrome

Consensus panel co-chairs: Ashley Cox, MD, MSc, FRCSC,<sup>1</sup> Genevieve Nadeau, MD, MSc, FRCSC<sup>2</sup>  
Consensus panel members: J. Curtis Nickel, MD, FRCSC,<sup>4</sup> Les Jacques Corcos, MD, FRCSC,<sup>6</sup> Joel Teichman, MD, FRCSC<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Urology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Department of Urology, North York General Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada; <sup>3</sup>CHU de Québec, Division of Urology, Québec, QC, Canada; <sup>4</sup>Queens University, Kingston, ON, Canada; <sup>5</sup>Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada; <sup>6</sup>McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada; <sup>7</sup>University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Cite as: *Can Urol Assoc J* 2016;10(5-6):E136-55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5489/auaj.3786>  
Published online May 12, 2016.

#### Methodology

The following guidelines were based on MEDLINE and PUBMED searches of English language literature, in addition to consensus conference proceedings. Levels of evidence and grades of recommendation were assigned for each investigation and treatment, as per the modified Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine grading system. All recommendations were based on the best available evidence.



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Journal der wissenschaftlichen Medizin

S2K-Leitlinie

Diagnostik und Therapie der Interstitiellen Cystitis (IC/BPS)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie

D. Engeler (Chair), A.P. Baranowski, B. Berghmans, J. Birch (Patient Advocate), J. Borovicka, A.M. Cottrell, P. Dinis-Oliveira, S. Elneil, J. Hughes, E.J. Messelink (Vice-chair), R.A. Pinto, M.L. van Poelgeest (Patient Advocate), V. Tidman, A.C. de C Williams  
Guidelines Associates: P. Abreu-Mendes, S. Dabestani, B. Parsons, J. Tornic, V. Zumstein  
Guidelines Office: J.A. Darraugh

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International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology



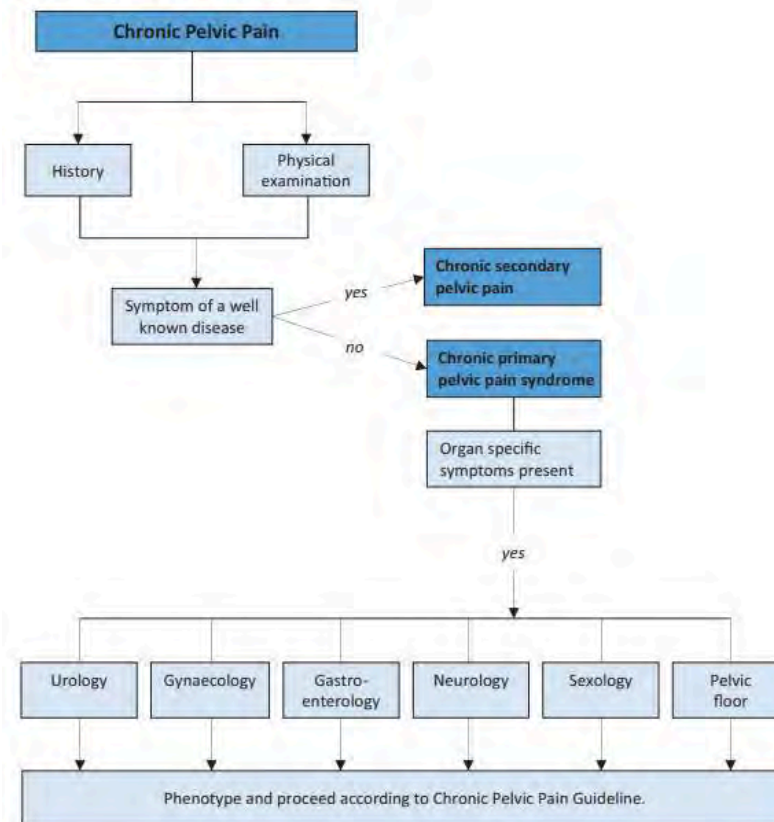
Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

## Bladder Pain Syndrome

September 2016

# EAU Guidelines

Figure 1: Diagnosing chronic pelvic pain



Journal of Urology April 17 2025

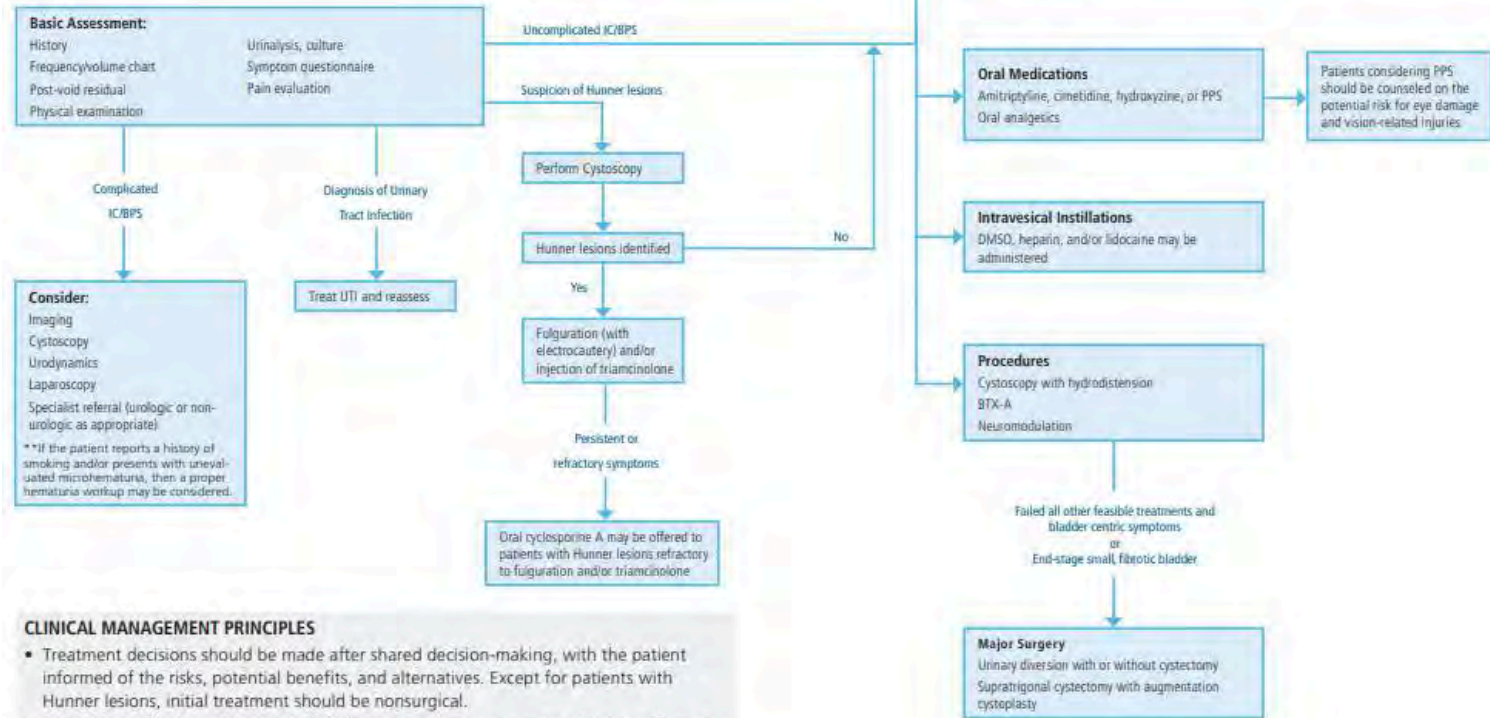
# Diagnosis and Management of Male Chronic Pelvic Pain (Chronic Prostatitis/Chronic Pelvic Pain Syndrome and Chronic Scrotal Content Pain): AUA Guideline: Part I

H. Henry Lai, MD; Michel A. [Pontari](#), MD; Charles E. [Argoff](#), MD; Larissa Bresler, MD, DABMA; Benjamin N. Breyer, MD; Roger Chou, MD; J. Quentin Clemens, MD, FACS, MSCI; Elise JB De, MD; R. Christopher Doiron, MD, MPH; Dane Johnson, MD; Erin Kirkby, MS; Susan M. MacDonald, MD; Jill H. Osborne, MA; Sijo J. [Parekattil](#), MD; Beth Shelly, PT, DPT, WCS, BCB PMD

# AUA Guideline IC/BPS

**Figure One: IC/BPS Diagnosis and Treatment Algorithm**

IC/BPS: An unpleasant sensation (pain, pressure, discomfort) perceived to be related to the urinary bladder, associated with lower urinary tract symptoms of more than six weeks duration, in the absence of infection or other identifiable causes.



**CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

- Treatment decisions should be made after shared decision-making, with the patient informed of the risks, potential benefits, and alternatives. Except for patients with Hunner lesions, initial treatment should be nonsurgical.
- Initial treatment type and level should depend on symptom severity, clinician judgment, and patient preferences.
- Multiple, simultaneous treatments may be considered if it is in the best interests of the patient.
- Ineffective treatments should be stopped.
- Pain management should be continually assessed for effectiveness.
- The IC/BPS diagnosis should be reconsidered if no improvement occurs after multiple treatment approaches.

BTX-A: Onabotulinumtoxin A; DMSO: Dimethylsulfoxide; IC/BPS: Interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome; PPS: Pentosan polysulfate; UTI: Urinary tract infection  
 The evidence supporting the use of Neuromodulation, Cyclosporine A and BTX-A for IC/BPS is limited by many factors including study quality, small sample sizes, and lack of durable follow up. None of these three therapies have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for this indication. The panel believes that none of these interventions can be recommended for general use for this disorder, but rather should be limited to practitioners with experience managing this syndrome and willingness to provide long term care of these patients post intervention.  
 Copyright © 2022 American Urological Association. Education and Research, Inc.

Clemens JQ, Erickson DR, Varela NP, Lai HH. Diagnosis and treatment of interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome. J Urol. 2022;208(1):34-42

# Approach to Patients Labelled with IC

## Predocumentation:

- ▶ Comprehensive intake
- Multidisciplinary symptom screening & review of symptoms
- Catalogue of prior testing
- Catalogue of prior trials of therapy

## Visit:

Verbal story from patient → Clue e.g., acute onset unilateral pelvic pain + LUTS suggesting ureteric stone → Investigate

- ▶ Physical exam, UA & PVR as per AUA guidelines
- ▶ Review existing testing & imaging

Abnormal → Investigate

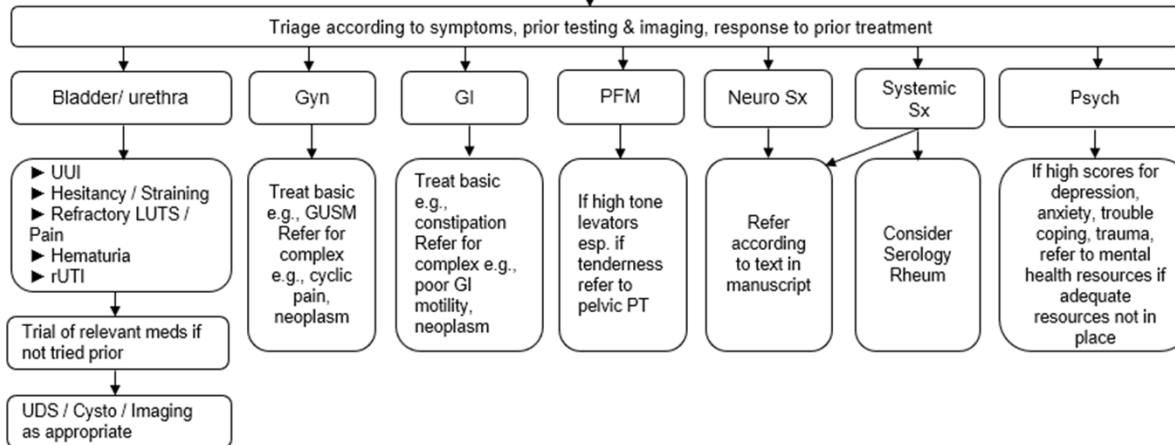
Not Abnormal →

- Stable disease
- Happy with quality of life
- No red flags
- Meets SUFU definition

No

Yes

Support current plan of care for IC/BPS



# International Pelvic Pain Society

## www.pelvicpain.org

### Healthcare Provider Assessment Form

### Patient Pelvic Health History Form

**INTERNATIONAL PELVIC PAIN SOCIETY HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ASSESSMENT FORM**  
www.pelvicpain.org

**Neurologic (External)**

| Distribution              | Right                                                                                                          | Left                                                                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Iliohypogastric           | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Ilioinguinal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Obturator                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Genitofemoral             | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Cluneal                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Lateral femoral cutaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Podendal Branch:          | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Allodynia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hyperalgesia |
| Anal wink reflex          | <input type="checkbox"/> Normal                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent                                             |

**Fibromyalgia Positive Tender Points AND Body Pain Map**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Add comments, including pain severity and radiation patterns.

Last revised 8.3.19 [www.pelvicpain.org](http://www.pelvicpain.org)

**INTERNATIONAL PELVIC PAIN SOCIETY PELVIC HEALTH HISTORY FORM**  
www.pelvicpain.org

**10. Pain History, Description and Contributing Factors**

When did your pain begin? Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  Unsure

Please use your own words to describe your pain:

How did your main pain begin, do you recall a specific incident that occurred when your pain first began? (Check one)  
 Injury at home  Injury at work/school  Injury in other setting  Motor vehicle crash  
 After surgery  Cancer  Medical condition other than cancer  
 No obvious cause/ do not know a specific incident  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How did your pain begin? (Check only one)  Suddenly  Gradually

How long has your main pain been present? (Check only one)  
 Less than 3 months  3-12 months  12 months-2 years  2-5 years  More than 5 years

Since your pain began, is your pain: (Check only one)  
 No different  Getting better  Getting worse  I don't know

Which statement best describes your pain? (Check only one)  
 Always present (always the same intensity)  
 Always present (level of pain varies)  
 Often present (pain free periods less than 6 hours)  
 Occasionally present (once to several times per day lasting up to an hour)  
 Rarely present (pain occurs every few days or weeks)

How would you describe your pain: (Check all that apply)  
 Sharp, stabbing  Crampy  Heavy feeling in the pelvis  Dull, achy pain  
 Pulling, tugging pain  Throbbing pain  Burning pain  Falling out sensation  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your pain ever wake you up from your sleep?  Yes  No

Does your pain ever radiate or spread to other regions of your body?  Yes  No

What makes your pain **WORSE**? (Check all that apply)  
 Walking  Climbing stairs  Urination  Heavy lifting  Nothing makes it worse  
 Full bladder  Stress  Housework  The weather  Getting in/out of the car  
 Exercise  Menstrual period  Contact with clothing  Intercourse/ Sexual contact  
 Bowel movements  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What makes your pain **BETTER**? (Check all that apply)  
 Lying down/rest  Emptying bladder  Ice or Heating pad  Nothing makes it better  
 Meditation  Laxatives/enema  It goes away by itself  When I feel supported  
 Hot bath  Massage  Bowel movements  When my stress is low  
 Exercise  Ibuprofen or Tylenol  Prescription pain medications  
 Being distracted, when I am busy doing other things  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Last revised 8.19.2019 [www.pelvicpain.org](http://www.pelvicpain.org)  
 All information, content and material on this form is for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the care, history, diagnosis, and/or medical treatment of a qualified physician or healthcare professional.

[www.ics.org/standards](http://www.ics.org/standards)  
[www.ics.org/institute](http://www.ics.org/institute)

- Definition – noncyclic CPP > 3 months
- Pain Characteristics – location, perception, modality
- Site specific versus central sensitization
- Identify inciting event – surgery, trauma, hormonal manipulation, major change in physical activity
- Comorbid conditions (e.g. autoimmune disease, XRT)
- Identify each pain generator and treat concurrently
- Domains of CPP – which organ systems are involved
  - Lower Urinary Tract Pain
  - Female Genital Pain
  - Male Genital Pain
  - Gastrointestinal Pain
  - Musculoskeletal Pain
  - Neuropathic Pain
  - Overlays:
    - Psychological
    - Sexual Aspects
    - Comorbidities

AND

Neurorol. Urodynam., 2016 36: 984–1008.

Neurourology and Urodynamics

### A Standard for Terminology in Chronic Pelvic Pain Syndromes: A Report From the Chronic Pelvic Pain Working Group of the International Continence Society

Regula Doggweiler,<sup>1</sup> Kristene E. Whitmore,<sup>2\*</sup> Jane M. Meijlink,<sup>3</sup> Marcus J. Drake,<sup>4</sup> Helena Frawley,<sup>5</sup> Jørgen Nordling,<sup>6</sup> Philip Hanno,<sup>7</sup> Matthew O. Fraser,<sup>8</sup> Yukio Homma,<sup>9</sup> Gustavo Garrido,<sup>10</sup> Mario J. Gomes,<sup>11</sup> Sohier Elneil,<sup>12</sup> Joop P. van de Merwe,<sup>13</sup> Alex T.L. Lin,<sup>14</sup> and Hikaru Tomoe<sup>15</sup>



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## SOUNDING BOARD



# **An International Continence Society (ICS) report on the terminology for pelvic floor muscle assessment**

Helena Frawley<sup>1</sup> | Beth Shelly<sup>2,3</sup> | Melanie Morin<sup>4</sup> |  
Stéphanie Bernard<sup>5</sup> | Kari Bø<sup>6,7</sup> | Giuseppe Alessandro Digesu<sup>8</sup> |  
Tamara Dickinson<sup>9</sup> | Sanchia Goonewardene<sup>10</sup> | Doreen McClurg<sup>11</sup> |  
Mohammad S. Rahnama'i<sup>12,13</sup> | Alexis Schizas<sup>14</sup> |  
Marijke Slieker-ten Hove<sup>15,16</sup> | Satoru Takahashi<sup>17</sup> | Jenniffer Voelkl Guevara<sup>18</sup>

<https://www.ics.org/standards>

New Standardization Document

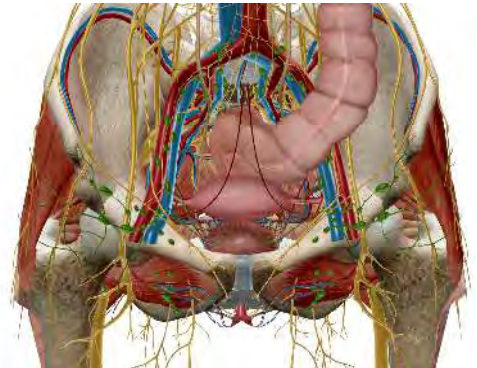
Treatment of Pelvic Pain depends on the:

**Causes of Pain in Pelvis and Reasons for Pelvic Pain**

| LOCATION of PELVIC PAIN SYMPTOMS                                                                                                                                   | POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS of CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN SYNDROME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vulvar pain</b><br>Vulva and pelvic burning, burning in pelvic area                                                                                             | Infection<br>Exposures (irritants)<br>Vulvar atrophy (low estrogen)<br>Low testosterone (can be caused by external hormones)<br>Dermatologic conditions (e.g., lichen sclerosis)<br>Neuropathy                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Introital pain</b><br>Entrance to vagina                                                                                                                        | Low testosterone<br>Friction from sexual activity or clothing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Urethral pain</b><br>Pain urinating                                                                                                                             | Vulvovaginal atrophy<br>Urethral caruncle<br>Friction<br>Tight external sphincter muscle or stricture (turbulence)<br>Skene's gland<br>Stone at ureterovesical junction or urethra diverticulum<br>Tumor<br>Infection ( <u>ureaplasma</u> /mycoplasma) or sexually transmitted infection<br>Recurrent urinary tract infections                |
| <b>Pelvic floor muscles</b><br>Heavy feeling in pelvic area, pelvic ache, pelvic pain from sitting, pelvic headache                                                | Dysfunctional voiding<br>Overactivity of muscles from pelvic strain, pelvic exercises or the <u>kegel</u> exercise                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Gynecological pain</b><br>Causes of pelvic pain in women, pain in pelvic female, symptoms of pelvic infection, sore pelvic area, pelvic discomfort, sore pelvis | Endometriosis symptoms (cramps in pelvis, pain in pelvis before period, pain in pelvis after period, extreme pelvic pain)<br>Endometritis<br>Adhesions in pelvis<br>Uterine fibroids<br>Ovarian venous abnormality<br>Ovarian cysts, torsion, or other growths<br>Ectopic pregnancy<br>Sexually transmitted infection, inflammation in pelvis |
| <b>Male organ pain</b>                                                                                                                                             | Prostatitis symptoms or epididymitis<br>Testis mass, torsion, or nerve pain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prostate pain, testis pain, groin pain, scrotum pain, pelvis pain men, pain in pelvis male                                                                                       | Ejaculatory duct or vas deferens obstruction<br><u>Psoriasis</u> Disease<br>Sexually transmitted infection (STI, STD)<br>Pelvic floor muscles, especially when prostatitis treatment has not been successful                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Bladder pain</b>                                                                                                                                                              | Interstitial cystitis<br>Dietary triggers<br>Bladder outlet obstruction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Gastrointestinal Pain</b><br>Painful bowel movement, stomach cramps, blood in stool, cramps, bloating                                                                         | Pelvic floor muscles: <u>levator ani</u> syndrome<br>Proctalgia fugax / chronic proctalgia<br>Unspecified functional anorectal pain<br>Constipation –right pelvic pain, lower left side pelvic pain<br>Anal Fissure<br>Hemorrhoids<br>Pruritis ani<br>Anal cancer<br>Paget's disease<br>Warts<br>Pelvic tumor<br>Diverticulitis<br>Appendicitis<br>Adhesions in pelvis<br>Hernia – pelvic pain sneezing<br>Inflammatory bowel disease<br>Irritable bowel syndrome – gas pain in pelvis |
| <b>Vascular pain in lower pelvis</b><br>Pelvis pain worse with standing                                                                                                          | Pelvic venous disorder, pelvic venous congestion syndrome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Bone pain, Joint Pain</b><br>Pelvic girdle pain, fractured pelvis symptoms, pelvic bone pain, pubic symphysis pain, pain in hips, pain in the pubic area, pelvic pain running | Back, knee, foot, or hip problem<br>Injury to nerves, bones, ligaments, or tendons<br>Inflammation of bone (osteitis or osteomyelitis)<br>Muscle deficit (myopathy)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Nerve pain</b><br>Burning pain in pelvis, burning sensation in pelvic area, pain that radiates down one leg, sharp pains in pelvic area                                       | Upper motor neuron syndrome (upper spine/brain nerves)<br>Spinal stenosis<br>Herniated disc<br>Multiple sclerosis<br>Stroke<br>Cerebral palsy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                | Lower motor neuron syndromes (lower spinal cord)<br>Cauda equina syndrome<br>Tethered cord syndrome<br><u>Tarlov</u> Cyst<br>Sacral plexus<br>Peripheral nerve problem<br>Pudendal neuropathy, pudendal neuralgia, or other nerve entrapment<br>Peripheral neuropathy or neuroinflammation |
| <b>Psychological</b>                                                           | Loss of health<br>Depression<br>Anxiety<br>History of sexual abuse/assault, PTSD<br>Poor emotional coping/communication<br>Personality disorders<br>Couple distress                                                                                                                        |
| <b>All-over pain</b><br>Pain all over the body, pain everywhere, constant pain | Fibromyalgia<br>Small fiber polyneuropathy<br>Diabetic neuropathy<br>Central sensitization<br>Neuroinflammatory disease (e.g. Lyme disease)<br>Rheumatologic disease<br>Vasculitis                                                                                                         |



# Differential Diagnosis of Pelvic Pain

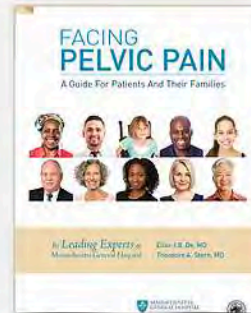
[www.facingpelvicpain.org](http://www.facingpelvicpain.org)

Free Multidisciplinary One-Stop Resource  
Providers and Patients  
[www.facingpelvicpain.org](http://www.facingpelvicpain.org)



Finding a specialist experienced specifically in pelvic pain can be challenging. But, don't give up! Here are some databases that will help you find the right medical care provider in your area (click the links below):

- [American Urogynecological Society \(AUGS\)](#)
- [American College of Ob-Gyn](#)
- [American Physical Therapy Association](#)
- [Herman Wallace Institute](#)
- [Global Pelvic Health Alliance](#)
- [Endometriosis Association](#)
- [International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders](#)
- [Interstitial Cystitis Network](#)
- [Interstitial Cystitis Association](#)
- [International Pelvic Pain Society](#)
- [Vulvodynia Association](#)
- [Vulvar Pain Foundation](#)
- [Pudendal Neuralgia Association](#)
- [Neuropathy Cammians](#)



I need this book! >

**Tell Me More!**

Other Websites Helpful in Pelvic Pain and Pelvic Floor Conditions:

- [World Federation for Incontinence and Pelvic Problems](#)
- [Urology Care Foundation](#)
- [Harvard Medical School Patient Education Center](#)
- [Continence Product Advisor](#)



**Video - Nerve Blocks for Pelvic Pain**

← Pain Specialists Alexandra Adler MD and Antje Barneveld MD, Explain the Roles of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Injections for Pelvic Pain  
10 Minute [Video](#)

Images: iStock and <http://www.elsevier.com>



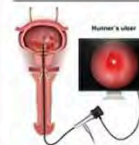
**Video - Pelvic Floor Muscle PT in Men Explained**

← Dr. Beth Shelly Explains What Happens in Pelvic PT for Men  
6 Minute [Video](#)  
Read the [transcript](#)



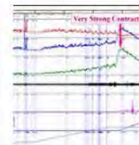
**Video - Pelvic Floor Muscle PT in Women Explained**

← Dr. Beth Shelly Explains What Happens in Pelvic PT for Women  
6 Minute [Video](#)  
Read the [transcript](#)



**Video - Cystoscopy Explained**

← Video Explaining "What is Cystoscopy?" (Office Camera Test of Bladder)  
6 Minute [Video](#)  
Read the [transcript](#)



**Video - Urodynamic Testing Explained**

← Video Explaining "What are Urodynamics?" (Pressure Test of Bladder)  
6 Minute [Video](#)  
Read the [transcript](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/@facingpelvicpain>

**Elise De, MD**  
@facingpelvicpain • 1.86K subscribers • 28 videos  
A Resource for People Living with Pelvic Pain, their Families, and their Health Care Professionals...more  
facingpelvicpain.org  
Customize channel Manage videos

Home Videos Playlists Posts Store

Latest Popular Oldest

Master Pelvic Pain in 32 Sessions  
ICS Global Pelvic Pain Exchange: Education for Clinicians Caring for People with Pelvic Pain  
77 views • 1 month ago

Removing Foley Catheter  
4.7K views • 1 year ago

Inflating Balloon in Male Anatomy  
1.5K views • 1 year ago

Inflating Balloon in Female Anatomy  
2.6K views • 1 year ago

What is a Uroflow?  
1K views • 1 year ago

What is a PVR?  
1.6K views • 1 year ago

How to hand irrigate HEMATURIA (blood in the urine).  
1.5K views • 1 year ago

BLADDER SELF HELP: At Home Voiding Diary!  
1.1K views • 1 year ago

High Tone Pelvic Floor Muscles

**Elise De, MD**

@facingpelvicpain



| <b>Vulvar / Vaginal Treatments</b>                 | <b>Tried?</b> | <b>Relief?</b> | <b>Still Using?</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Avoidance of Irritants (select toilet paper, soap) |               |                |                     |

# www.facingpelvicpain.org

## The Treatment Map

| <input type="checkbox"/> Steroid (clobetasol, hydrocortisone)     |               |                |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diazepam (Valium®) vaginal Suppositories |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baclofen (Lioresel®)                     |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lidocaine                                |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gabapentin (Neurontin®)                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amitriptyline (Elavil®)                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tacrolimus (Prograf®)                    |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naltrexone - low dose (Vivitrol®)        |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douches                                  |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Inserts                            |               |                |                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wipes                                    |               |                |                     |
| <b>Hormonal Medications</b>                                       | <b>Tried?</b> | <b>Relief?</b> | <b>Still Using?</b> |
| Vaginal estrogen cream, tablet or ring                            |               |                |                     |
| Estrogen / progesterone pills or patches                          |               |                |                     |
| Hormone-secreting intrauterine device (Mirena®. Liletta®)         |               |                |                     |

# [www.prosayla.com](http://www.prosayla.com) – Educational Resource for Women’s Sexual Health



**SEXUAL DESIRE**  
**Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors & Sexual Dysfunction**  
EMILY BARKER, MD MPH, MD, MPH  
EMILYANN KEY, MPH, MPH  
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are medications effective in treating a variety of...



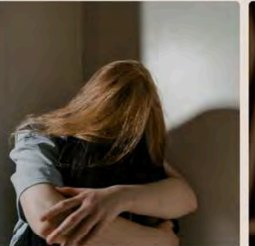
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Sexual Dysfunction in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**  
JAMES A. SIMON, MD, CCD, MSCP  
SLE is an autoimmune disorder that not only affects joints, skin, and organs but can impact intimacy....



**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Vulvar Aphthae**  
JENNA J. LULLO, MD  
Vulvar aphthae are painful ulcers on the skin of the vulva. They can significantly impact sexuality and...



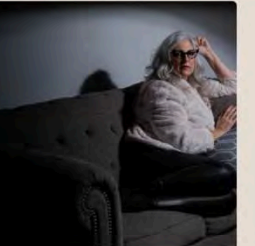
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) & Your Sexual Health**  
JAMES A. SIMON, MD, CCD, MSCP  
Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) is a common hormonal disorder affecting women of reproductive...



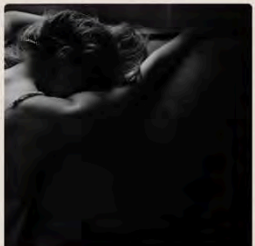
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Hidradenitis Suppurativa**  
JENNA J. LULLO, MD  
Hidradenitis suppurativa is a chronic, and often debilitating, skin condition in which painful, inflamed lesions...



**TREATMENT**  
**Vaginal Estrogen For The Prevention Of Recurrent Urinary Tract Infections**  
CARLOS ZAPATA-CABALLERO, MD  
Recurrent urinary tract infections (rUTIs) are a significant concern for many women, particularly after...



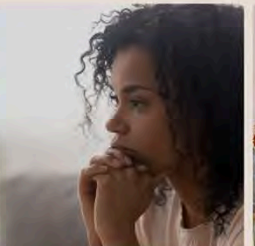
**SEXUAL DESIRE**  
**How Menopause Affects Sexuality**  
GRETCHEN FREY, MD, FACOG  
For anyone with ovaries, the stage of life known as menopause will come along sometime between the late...



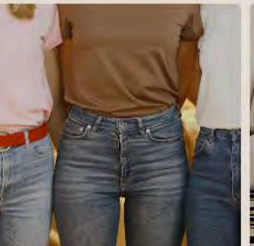
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Clitoral Adhesions**  
ANDREA MARTIN, DNP, CRNP, WHNP  
An estimated 23-33% of vulvar owners have clitoral adhesions.



**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Vaginismus**  
COREY R. BABB, DO, NCMP, IF, FACOG



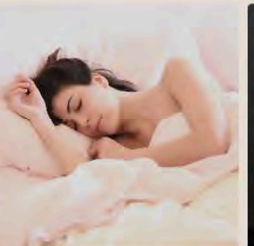
**SEXUAL DESIRE**  
**Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder**  
DIANA BITNER, MD  
Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD) is a state of decreased sexual desire that has occurred as a chang...



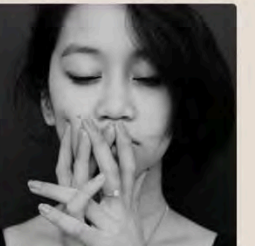
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Pelvic Floor Muscle Dysfunction**  
HEATHER QUAILÉ, DNP, WHNP-BC, CSC, SANE, IF  
Pelvic floor muscles are thin layers of muscle that form a basket to support pelvic organs and their dysfunction...



**Sex After Cancer**  
LAILA S. AGRAWAL, MD, IF  
Sexual health concerns are very common after a cancer diagnosis - and often treatable.



**Let's talk about sleep...(and sex)**  
JEWEL M. KLING, MD, MPH, NCMP, FACP  
It's easy to forget how important sleep is, but time and again, studies show sleep is critical to many aspec...



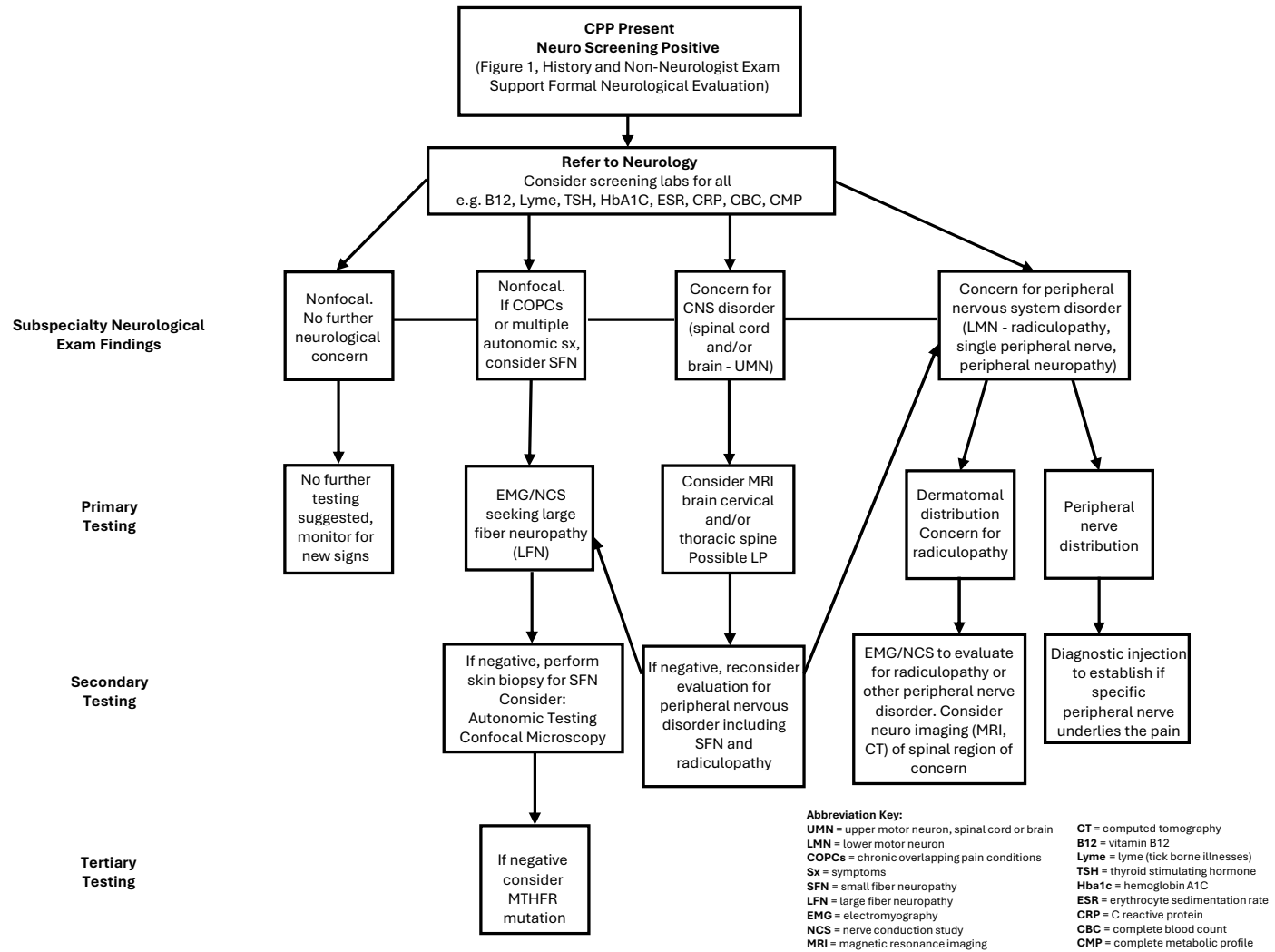
**PAINFUL SEX**  
**Hormonally Mediated Vestibulodynia**  
RACHEL RUBIN, MD, IF, NCMP  
Vestibulodynia is a general term used to describe pain in the vestibule. The vestibule is the tissu...

**Figure 1: Screening criteria used to trigger referral of patients with CPP for neurological evaluation.**

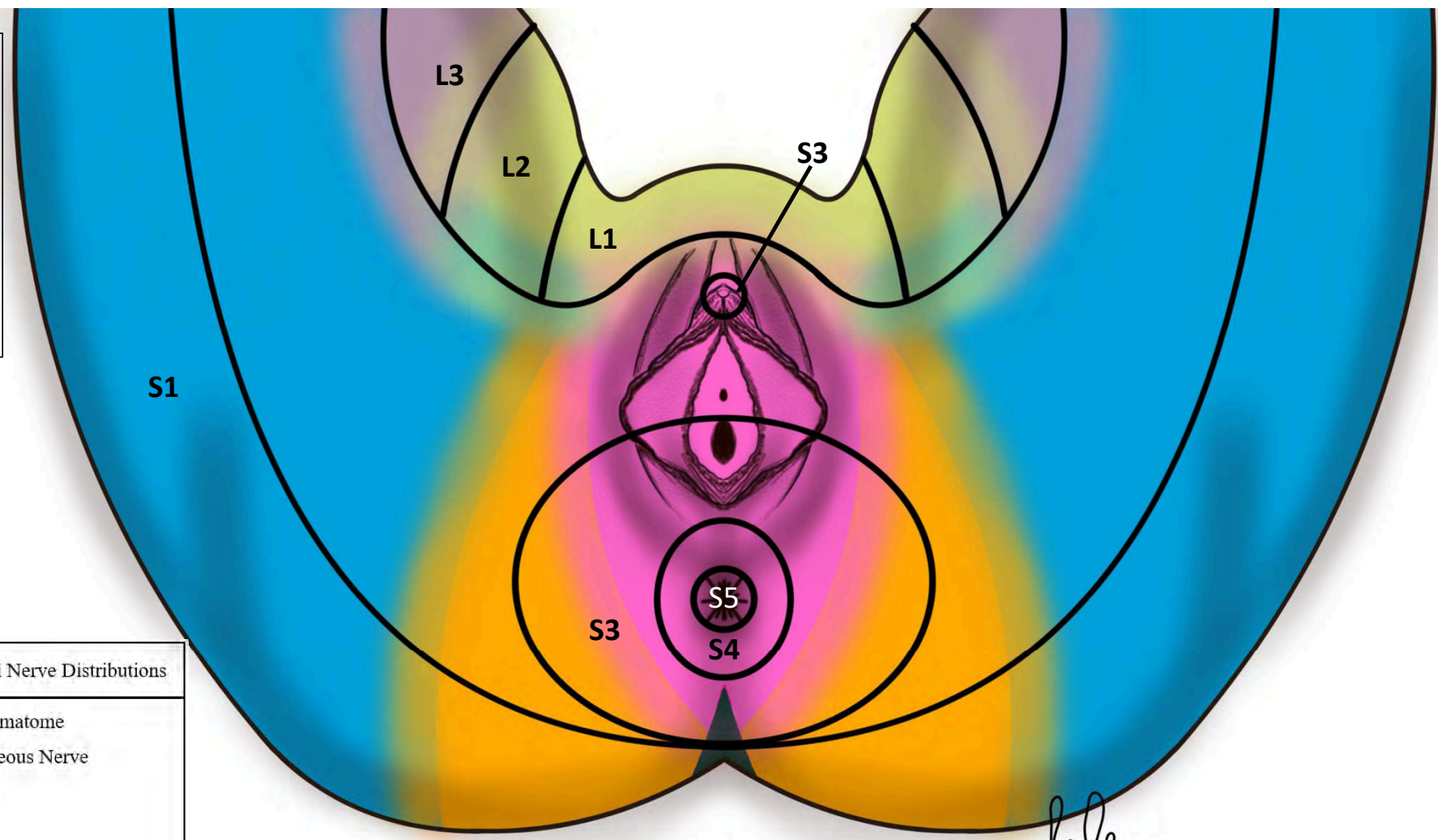
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- Pain, sensory disturbance, or weakness referable to:
  - a specific nerve root
  - peripheral nerve distribution
  - a pattern consistent with a central nervous system etiology
- Combination bladder, bowel, sexual, or pain symptoms referable to lumbosacral spine pathology
- Balance or gait alteration
- Abnormal reflexes, sensation, or weakness on cursory neurological examination
- Upper motor neuron findings or unexplained hypotonia on urodynamics
- Evidence of autonomic dysfunction (including interstitial cystitis, irritable bowel syndrome, erectile dysfunction, persistent genital arousal disorder, arrhythmia, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome), and/or chronic overlapping pain syndromes (COPCs, including pelvic pain, migraine, endometriosis, temporomandibular joint pain, sensitive feet, fibromyalgia)
- Pelvic pain refractory to musculoskeletal and organ-based interventions

**Neurologist's Diagnostic Algorithm in people with CPP referred by pelvic health for a positive Neurological Screening.**  
 This is a basic guide, not to replace subspecialty neurological evaluation. Copyright retained by the authors.



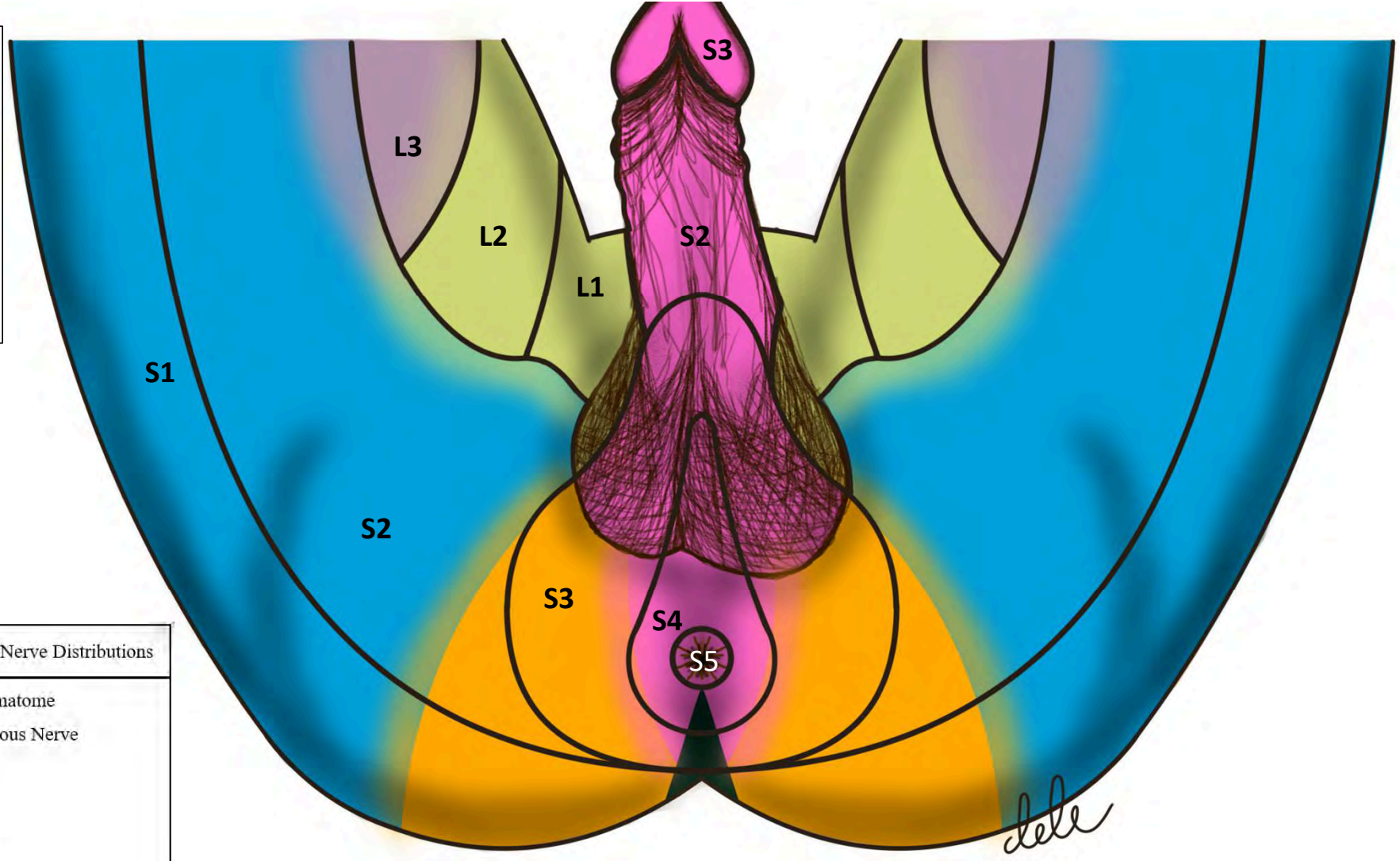
Peripheral nerve distributions (color) and spinal nerve root dermatomes (black lines) can indicate which nerves are causing pain.



- Dermatomes and Peripheral Nerve Distributions**
- Spinal Nerve Root Dermatome
  - Posterior Femurocutaneous Nerve
  - Inferior cluneal Nerve
  - Pudendal Nerve
  - Genitofemoral Nerve
  - Obturator Nerve
  - Coccygeal plexus

*diba*

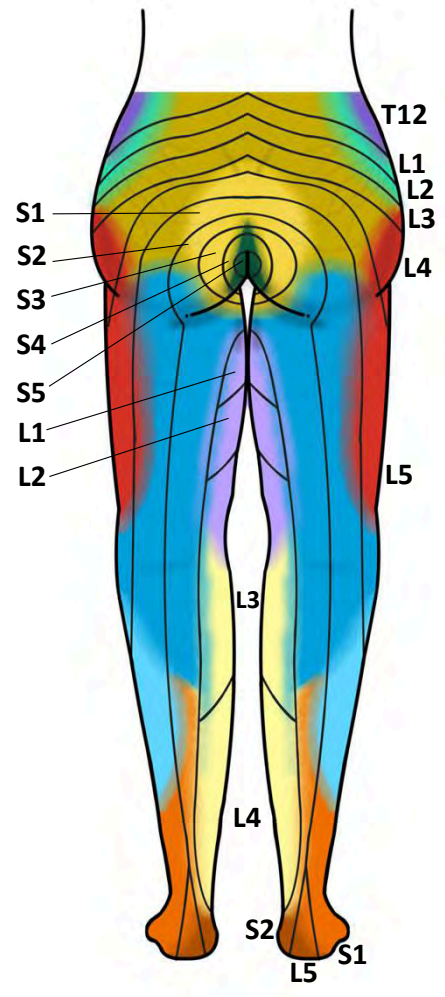
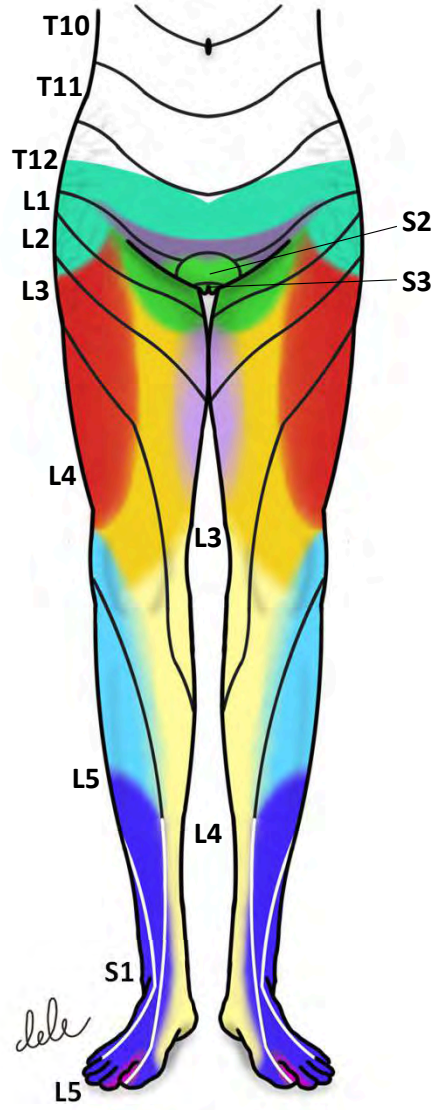
Peripheral nerve distributions (color) and spinal nerve root dermatomes (black lines) can indicate which nerves are causing pain.



| Dermatomes and Peripheral Nerve Distributions |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| —                                             | Spinal Nerve Root Dermatome     |
| ●                                             | Posterior Femurocutaneous Nerve |
| ●                                             | Inferior cluneal Nerve          |
| ●                                             | Pudendal Nerve                  |
| ●                                             | Genitofemoral Nerve             |
| ●                                             | Obturator Nerve                 |
| ●                                             | Coccygeal plexus                |

*dele*

| Key of Spinal Nerve Root Dermatomes and Peripheral Nerve Distributions |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| —                                                                      | Spinal Nerve Root Dermatome        |
| ●                                                                      | Iliohypogastric Nerve              |
| ●                                                                      | Ilioinguinal Nerve                 |
| ●                                                                      | Genitofemoral Nerve                |
| ●                                                                      | Lateral Femoral Cutaneous Nerve    |
| ●                                                                      | Femoral Nerve                      |
| ●                                                                      | Obturator Nerve                    |
| ●                                                                      | Posterior Femorocutaneous Nerves   |
| ●                                                                      | Femoral Nerve (Saphenous Branch)   |
| ●                                                                      | Common Fibular Nerve (superficial) |
| ●                                                                      | Common Fibular Nerve (deep)        |
| ●                                                                      | Posterior Femorocutaneous Nerves   |
| ●                                                                      | Superior Cluneal Nerve             |
| ●                                                                      | Middle Cluneal Nerve               |
| ●                                                                      | Tibial Nerve (Sural)               |
| ●                                                                      | Tibial Nerve                       |
| ●                                                                      | Coccygeal Plexus                   |



Nucelio Lemos, MD,  
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Jan Alberto Paredes Mogica, MD,<sup>1</sup> Frank Feigenbaum, MD,<sup>2</sup> Julie G. Pilitsis, MD, PhD, MBA,<sup>3</sup> Rudolph J. Schrot, MD, MAS,<sup>4</sup> Anne Louise Oaklander, MD, PhD,<sup>5</sup> and Elise J. B. De, MD<sup>6</sup>

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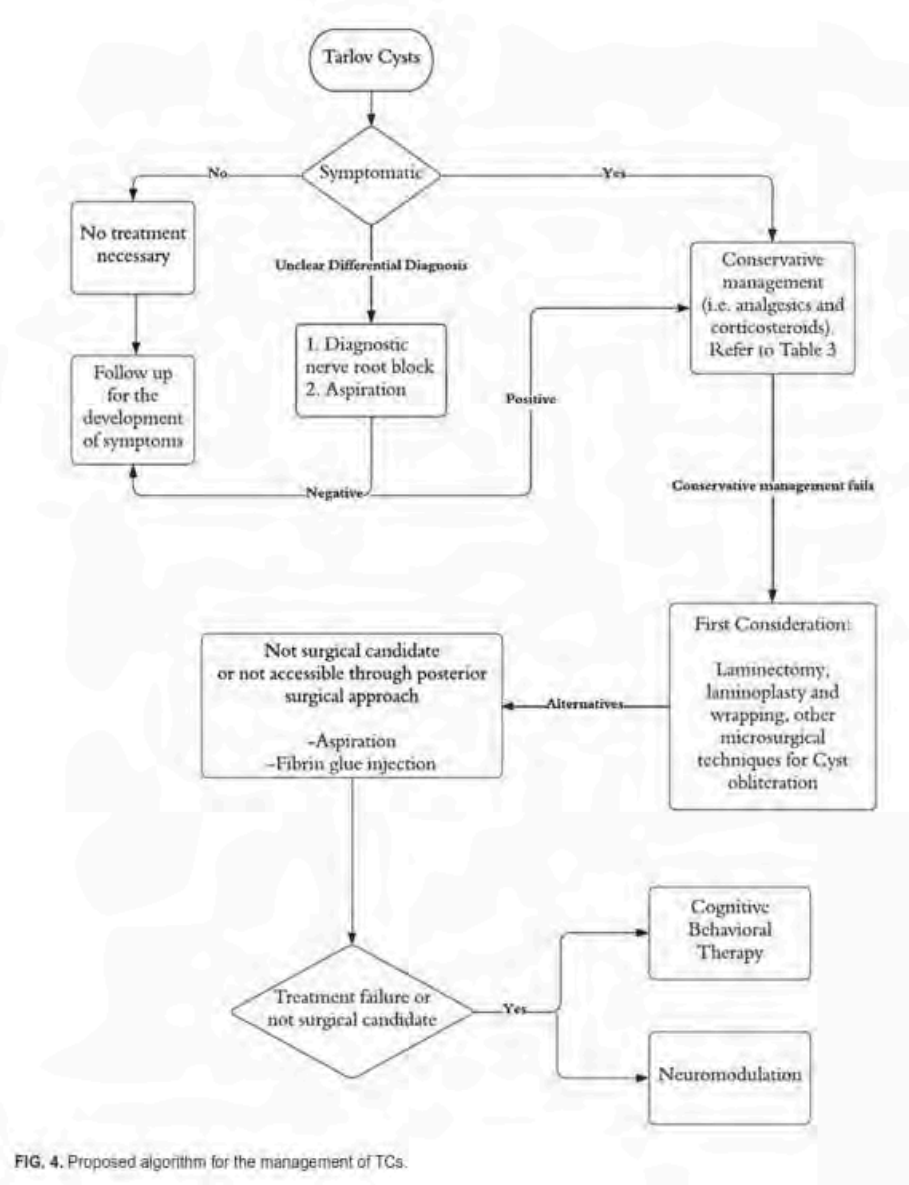


FIG. 4. Proposed algorithm for the management of TCs.

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- American Physical Therapy Association: <https://www.apta.org/>
- Herman Wallace Institute: <https://pelvicrehab.com/>
- Beth Shelly DPT: <https://www.bethshelly.com/new-patients/pelvic-pain-and-spasms/>
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- Vulvar Pain Foundation: <https://www.thevpfoundation.org/>
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