

TRANSFORAMENAL SACRAL NERVE STIMULATION IN TREATMENT OF PELVIC PAIN SYNDROMES  
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#### Purpose

The aim of the study is to determine effectiveness of transforaminal sacral nerve stimulation in patients with chronic intractable pelvic pain without primary complaint of voiding dysfunction.

#### Materials and Methods

We performed percutaneous subchronic stimulation trial of at least one week in 7 patients. Quadripolar leads with fixed anchor were placed in S3 foramen in 4 cases (3 unilateral and 1 bilateral) and in S4 foramen in 3 cases (2 unilateral and 1 bilateral). Patients with pain improvement > 50% were implanted with a neuroprothetic device for chronic nerve stimulation.

The efficacy of SNS therapy was measured with a pain visual analogue scale (VAS) at baseline, during sub-chronic trial and at 1,3,6,8,10 and 14 months after neurostimulator implantation (mean follow-up 7,5 months).

#### Results

During test stimulation 2 patient had temporary pain relief (2 days and 5 days, both with unilateral implants); 5 patients had significant and permanent pain relief and in those cases an InterStim pulse generator was implanted. At 1 months follow-up improvement in VAS score (<3/10) was evident in 4 of implanted patients while 1 patient reported worsening of relief that required change in electrode polarity. Pain improvement was unchanged at 3 and 6 months. At 12 months (2 cases) progressive increase of stimulation intensity was necessary to keep the results.

In 1 patient with unilateral implant break of the lead occurred with acute reappearance of pain: its replacement allowed resumption of pain relief.

#### Conclusions

Sacral nerve stimulation provided a substantial and durable pelvic pain relief but a longer test stimulation is mandatory to avoid false positive response during sub-chronic stimulation.