



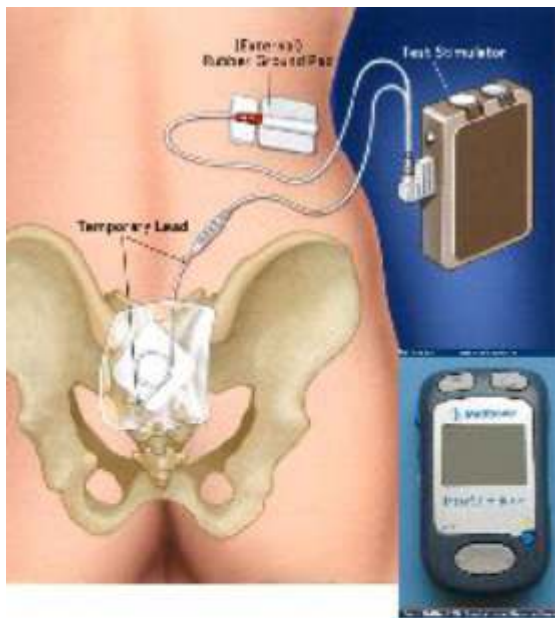
SACRAL NERVE STIMULATION FOR BOWEL AND BLADDER

Over the last 10 years sacral nerve stimulation (SNS) has emerged as a useful therapy for treatment of pelvic floor disorders, namely

- Faecal incontinence
- Urge urinary incontinence
- Non-obstructing bladder retention
- Obstructive defecation with constipation

It is not known exactly how the therapy works but it seems to stimulate the pelvic floor nerves to contract the muscles that are weak and also to re-set the “pelvic pacemaker” and stop over activity which causes urgency of both bladder and bowel.

The technique involves placing a fine wire, through a needle, into the nerve roots that lie beside the spinal canal in the sacral area just above the tailbone. The fine wire is left in place, attached to a temporary battery, for 2 weeks. If this initial SNS is effective then it will be useful to proceed to a permanent wire, which is attached to a pacemaker type battery under the skin. The wires are placed under deep sedation or anaesthesia and are usually a day surgery procedure.

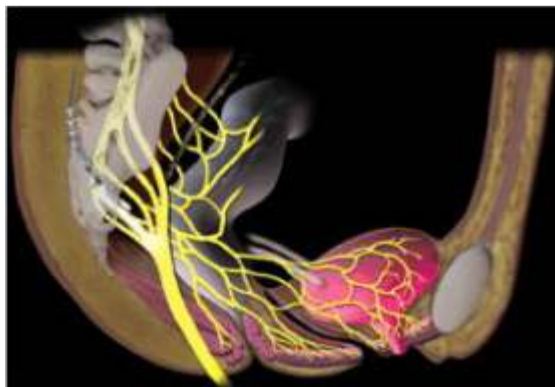


Following the initial procedure it is usual to keep a bowel or bladder diary so that some evaluation can be made of the efficacy of the SNS. It is possible to adjust the power of the battery stimulation using a remote control device.

Success rates in eligible patients: 3 out of 4 have >50% improvement in quality of life with the initial SNS lead. If the initial temporary lead is successful then if this patient proceeds to the permanent SNS there is a 9 out of 10 chance that this second lead will also be successful.

Adverse Events do occur but they are uncommon. Failure of the wire to be successful is the most common problem, see above. Other possible complications include

- Anaesthetic complications at the time of placement, such as breathing heart problems, are rare (<1 in 10,000 patients)
- Pain at site of lead in 3 of 100 patients
- Infection at site of lead in 10 of 100 patients, migration of the wire in 10 of 100 patients and bruise with collection of blood at site of wire in 1 of 100 patients
- Death or severe spinal injury is a remote possibility



I have read the information above and I understand the advantages and possible complications of the Sacral Nerve stimulator and I agree to have the wire inserted.

Signature:.....date:.....