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Long term results of Sacral Nerve Stimulation (SNS) in Spina Bifida

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Since there are very limited data on patients with spina bifida treated by Sacral Neuromodulation, we report a case of 22-year-old women with combined fecal (grade III) and urinary overflow incontinence based on a follow-up 0f 28 months. Urinary overflow incontinence manifested itself in frequent urgency episodes along with the necessity of clean intermittent self-catheterization. Peripheral Nerve Evaluation (PNE) was performed as a diagnostic approach, since all conservative therapies to treat the fecal incontinence had been exhausted. Computed Tomography images were recorded beforehand

in order to ensure access to the sacral nerves. After a test period of 3 weeks Bowel and Urinary conditions improved more than 50%, so that in a second step the permanent electrode and the Neurostimulator (Medtronic models 3889 and 3058) were implanted under local anaesthesia. Sacral neuromodulation is an effective and safe treatment modality for complex combined bowel and urinary disorders subject to spina bifida. Local Anaesthesia should be preferred because motor responses might be missing as in the current case.

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