



<b>Title</b>	<b>Efficacy, Effectiveness, and Safety of Sacral Neuromodulation in the Treatment of Urinary Incontinence</b>
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<b>Reference</b>	CAHTA HTA report May 2000, Pages: 47, References: 38. (Report carried out on request of the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs under an agreement signed between the Instituto de Salud Carlos III and CAHTA)

## Aim

To assess the scientific state of the art on the efficacy, effectiveness, and clinical safety of sacral neuromodulation (SN) in treating urinary incontinence.

## Results and Conclusions

- The initial results of studies on the efficacy of SN are promising in the short term. After 6 months of followup, between 47% and 50% of the patients in the group treated with NS recovered continence completely (dry patients), and between 70% and 85% showed improvement equal to or exceeding 90% in terms of frequency of UI episodes and reduction in diaper consumption.
- This study also includes measurements on quality of life obtained from instruments such as the SF-36, with significant increases in certain dimensions detected, e.g. those that measure emotional and physical aspects, although quality of life overall remains unchanged. The average/low seriousness of complications (displacement of the electrode and/or wire, pain in the implant area or in other sites, infections, explantation) was around 40%. The failure of treatment, defined as less than 50% improvement in symptoms, was approximately 32% after 18 months. In the clinical series, improvement of the symptoms, particularly with regard to UI, was between 50% and 100% after 6 months, using a threshold improvement of 50% as reference.
- SN is costly (the approximate price of a stimulation system with implant is about 8132 Euros, including elements of the study prior to the permanent implant) and presents a substantial percentage of complications which, while not serious, require extra medical care. Therefore, and while data point to the benefits of SN, the reduced number of patients involved in the studies, the unequal followup periods, and the lack of homogeneity in measuring the results, leave questions about the long-term impact of SN, quality of life, prognostic factors, and its cost-effectiveness.
- The field of research on SN contains many uncertainties, and care should be taken in the introduction and dissemination of this treatment so that it is applied restrictively (in centers of excellence) favoring training and under multicenter research protocols to answer the above questions.

## Methods

Qualitative systematic review of scientific evidence and external peer review process.