Correlations among sacral neuromodulation, overactive bladder and female sexual function  

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Women's sexuality and female sexual function (FSF) are complex issues modulated by multiple factors during a woman's entire life cycle. Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) are age-related factors that have a profound impact on physical, social and sexual well-being. In women, LUTS and urinary incontinence (UI) are associated with quality of life (QoL) impairment in terms of social and psychological problems, and also of sexual dysfunctions, in a significantly greater proportion than in the general healthy population, ranging from 26 to 47%. Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM) has proved to be an effective treatment for voiding dysfunctions in those patients that are refractory or intolerant to conservative treatments. Anecdotal references suggest that SNM could have a positive effect on sexuality; to date, however, few studies have evaluated the impact on female sexual function. Our study prospectively assessed changes in sexuality, clinical urologic outcome and general and specific QoL in a group of female patients with overactive bladder by means of validated tools, and has analyzed the possible correlations among them. These exclusive characteristics of our study enabled us to evaluate the influence of the clinical and QoL effects of SNM on sexuality. Considering all patients, Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) global score and four of six sub-domains (desire, arousal, lubrication and satisfaction) increased from the baseline value (a statistical significant increase). Our results showed a correlation between the improvement in the quality of sexual function in female patients with overactive bladder and the improvement in urinary symptoms.

Biography  
Diego Signorello graduated in Medicine and Surgery in 1990, specializing in Urology in 1995. Fellow of the European Board of Urology in 2001. Special fields of interest and research: neuro-urology, incontinence, reconstructive urology, sexual disorders and functional urology; third-world health system. Consultant at the "Neuro-urology and Incontinence Unit" from 06/2004 to 02/2011 at the Department of Urology, Bolzano Hospital-Italy. Permanent position as Specialist Registrar at the Department of Urology, Bressanone, Hospital, Italy. He is author of numerous scientific publications, member and secretary of the board of directors of Triveneta Society of Urodinamics, member of several international scientific associations.