

# Evaluation & Management of Pediatric Bladder & Bowel Dysfunction

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**.....with some slides from.....**

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**Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington**

**Director, Gastrointestinal Motility Program**

**Seattle Children's Hospital**



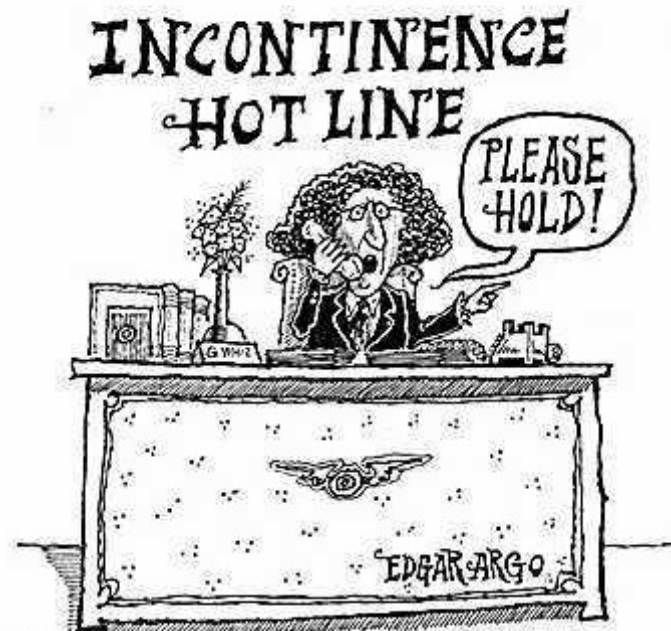
**SADLY, WE HAVE  
NO DISCLOSURES**



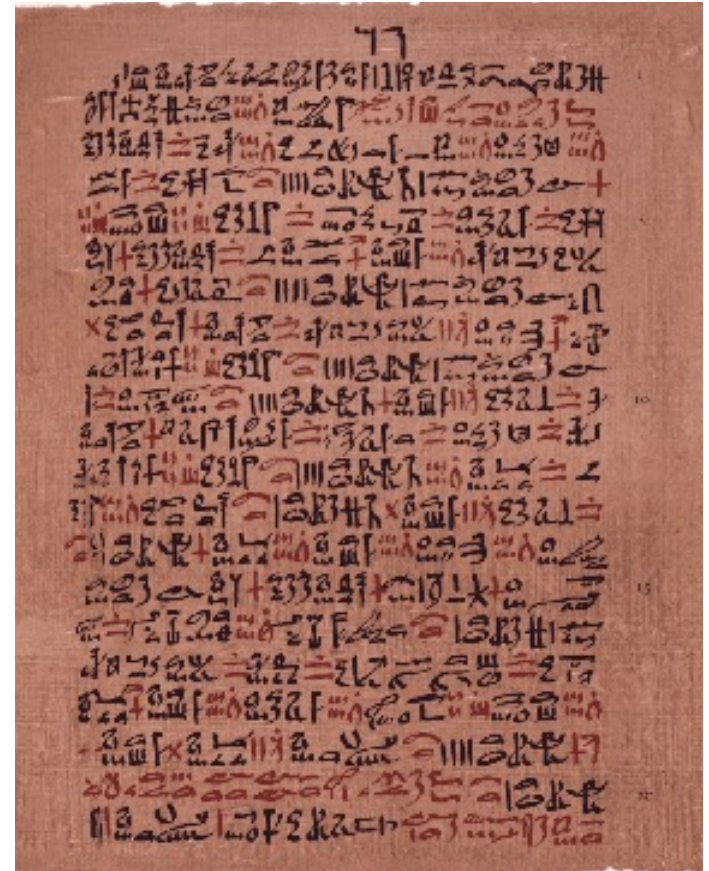
# Disclosure Statement:

- Kathleen Kiernan has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

# A Longstanding Problem



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[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/archive/20120918/hmd/breath/breath\\_exhibit/MindBodySpirit/IIBa18.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/archive/20120918/hmd/breath/breath_exhibit/MindBodySpirit/IIBa18.html)

# Objectives

- To briefly review the anatomy and physiology of the lower urinary tract
- Differentiate between organic and functional elimination disorders
- Describe the evaluation of childhood functional constipation as it pertains to bowel and bladder dysfunction

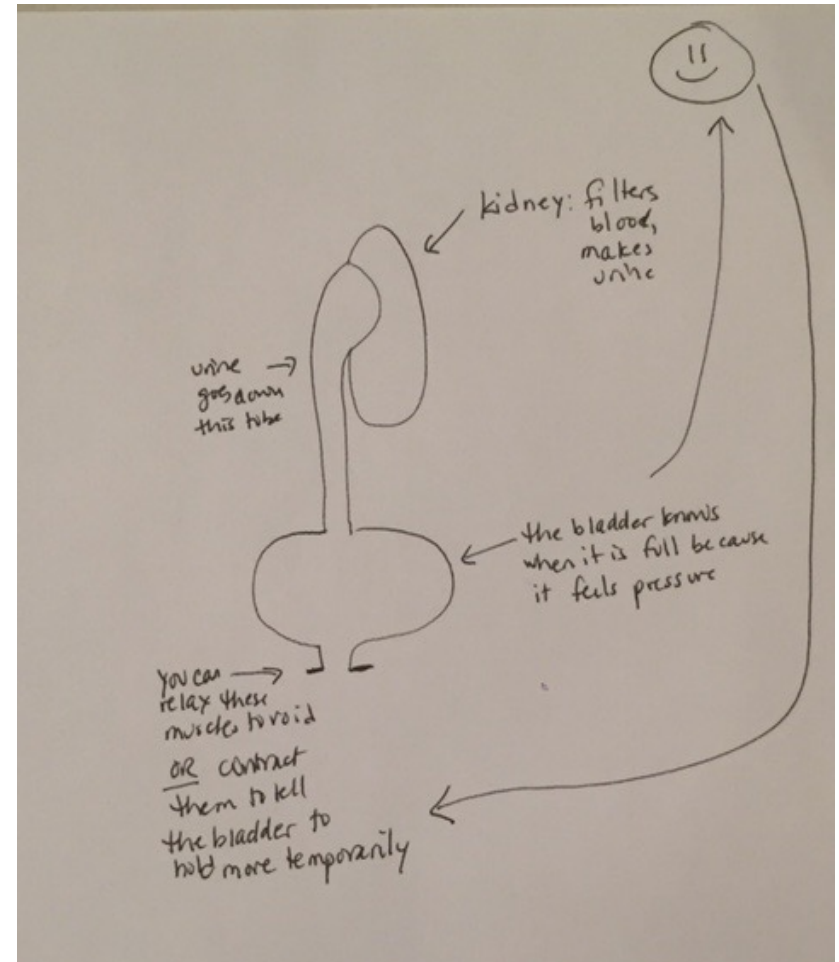
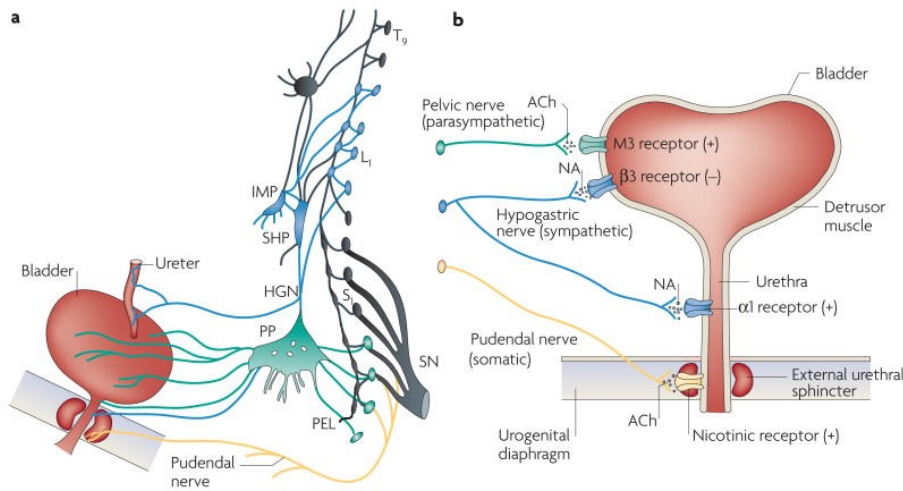
# Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction: The Great Imitator

- Patients won't always present with incontinence
- Common complaints:
  - Recurrent UTI (“UTI every month”)
  - Running to the bathroom
  - Penile pain
  - Testicular pain
  - Vulvovaginitis
  - Dysuria
  - Vaginal pain

# Myths About Lower Urinary Tract Function

- There is no problem if the child is dry
- The child is incontinent on purpose
- The bladder is “too small” for the child
- Offering access to a bathroom is sufficient
- Urethral dilatation will fix the problem

# Normal Voiding



Fowler et al 2008  
Bragg et al 2014

# A Quick Review of Meaningful Stimuli

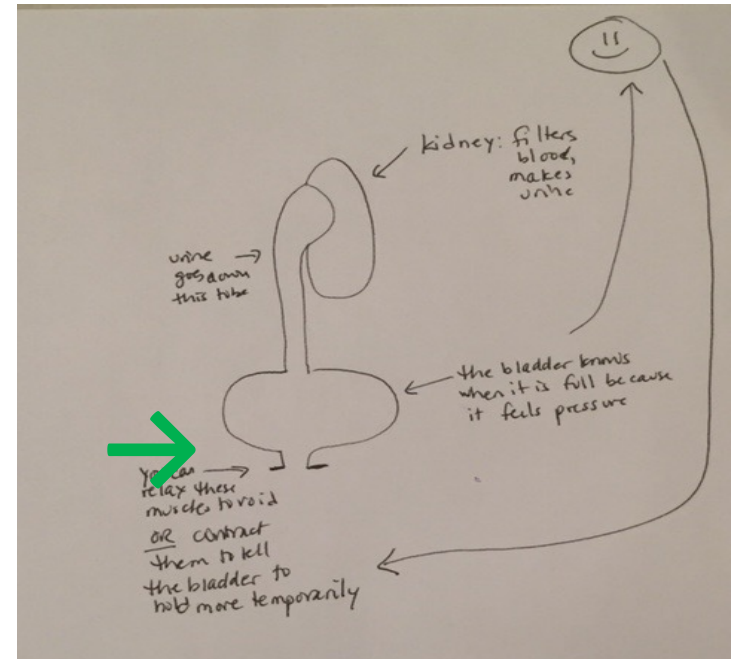
- Different than background
- Intermittent
- Episodic





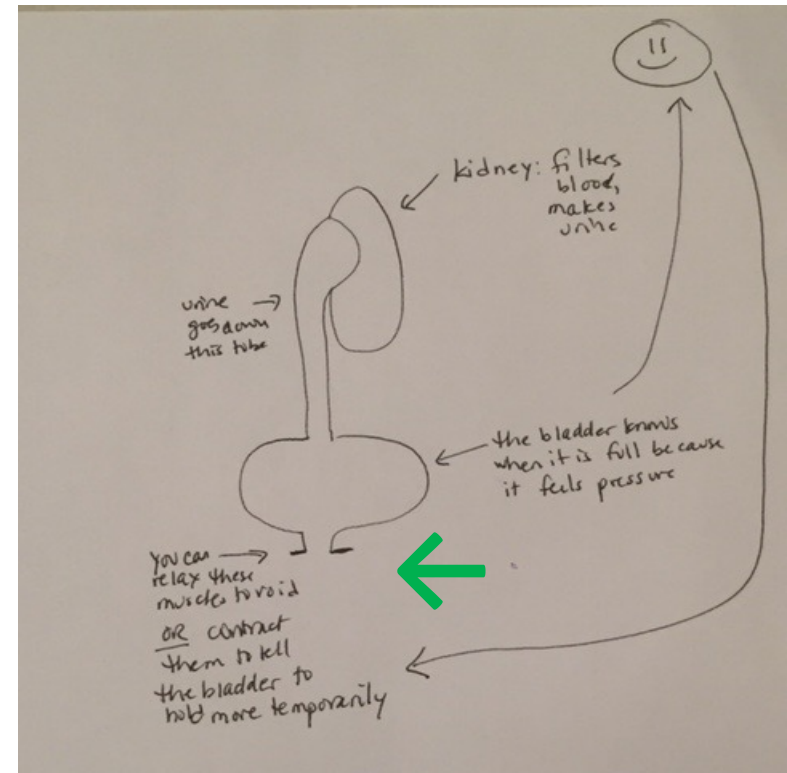
# Urinary Urgency

- Clinical presentation
  - Immediate urge to void
  - Urinary frequency
  - Maneuvers to hold urine (contraction of pelvic floor muscles, Vincent's curtsy)
  - Recurrent UTIs
- Typically seen in 5-7 year old girls, but my experience suggests that many patients are male



# Stress Incontinence

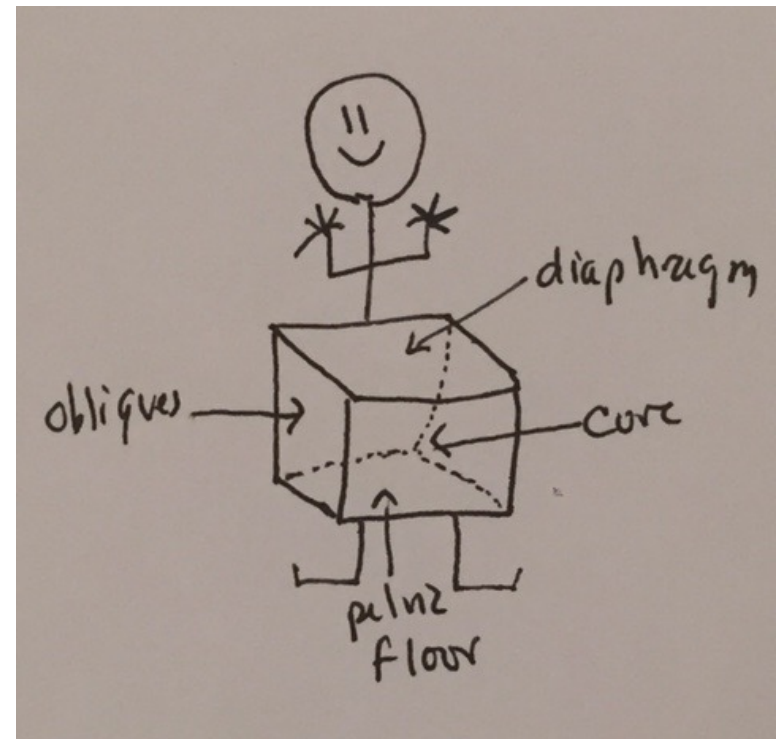
- Nearly one-third of female varsity collegiate athletes experienced stress incontinence
- High-impact sports seemed to have higher rates of incontinence: 67% for gymnastics vs 0% for golf
  - Decreased foot flexibility?
  - Force transmission



Cardoso et al 2018; Nygaard 1994;  
Nygaard 1996; de Mattos Lourenco  
et al, 2018; Casey and Temme 2017

# Stress Incontinence

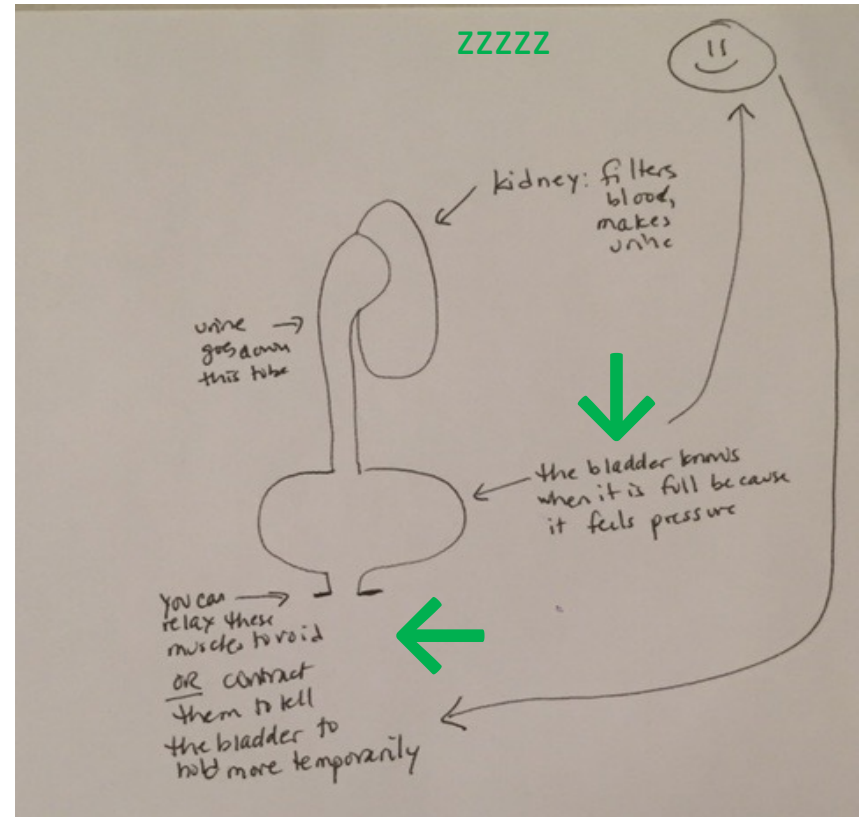
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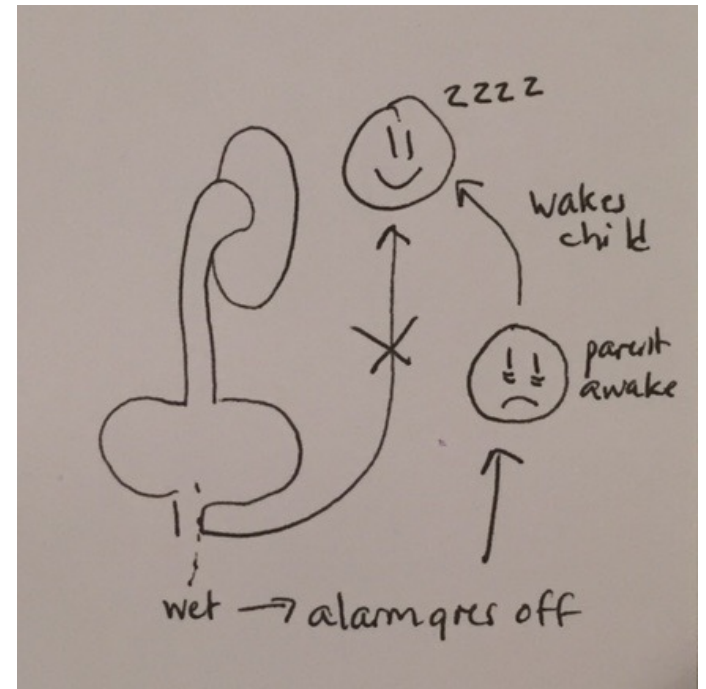
# The Bladder-Brain Connection

- Is the stimulus not adequate to prompt an accurate awareness of the need to void?



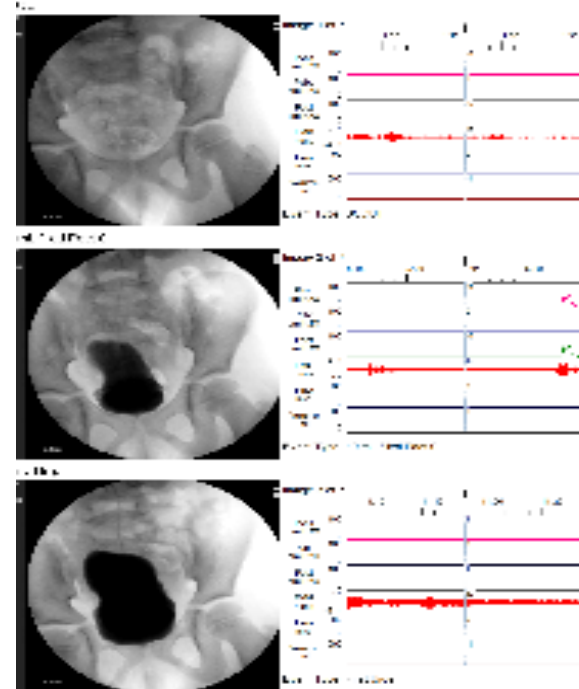
# Bedwetting Alarms

- Work on the Pavlovian operant conditioning principle
- Since child is a deep sleeper, parents must wake child entirely
- Most effective when elimination habits optimized



# Myogenic Detrusor Failure

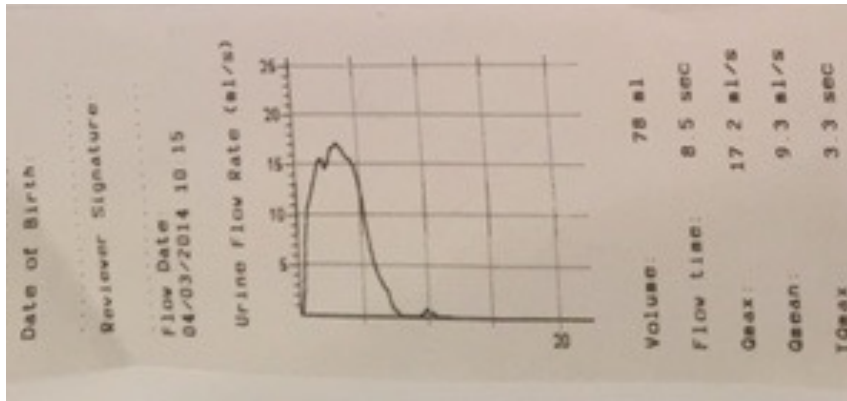
- Manifestation of end-stage, decompensated bladder
- Associated with holding urine extensively or high-pressure voiding



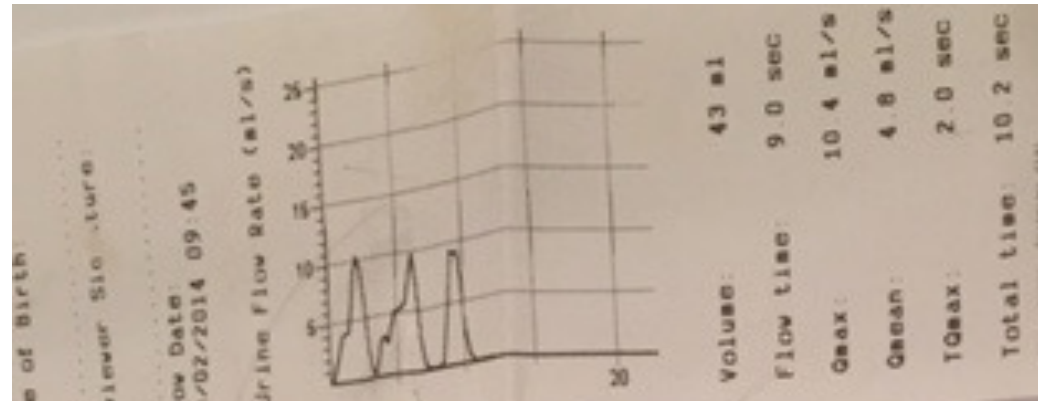
# Evaluation: Is This Organic or Functional?

- Physical examination: looking for “red flags”
  - Neurologic deficits/asymmetry
  - Sudden severe urinary retention
  - Comorbid conditions
- Urinalysis
  - Glucosuria
  - Concentrating ability
  - Hematuria
  - Infection
- Voiding diaries

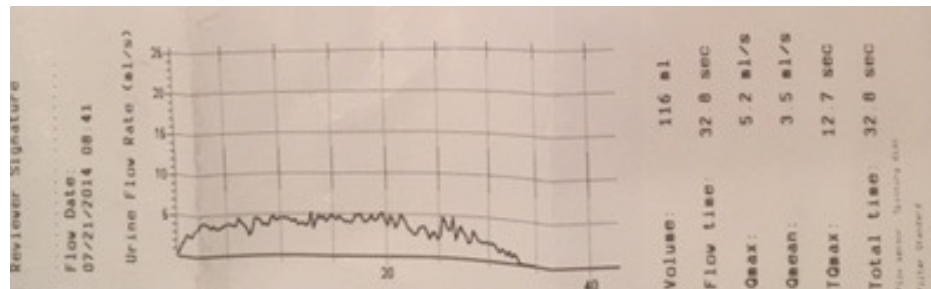
# Uroflow and PVR



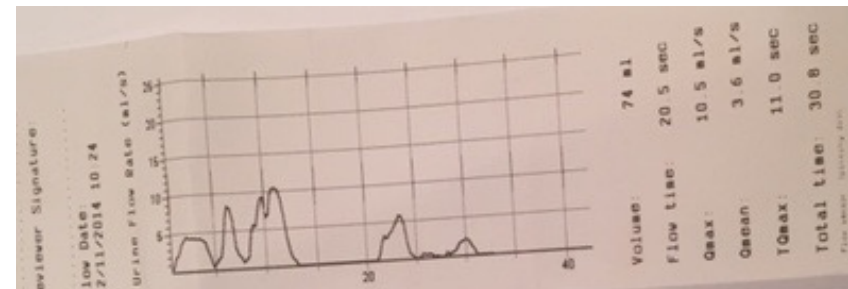
Tower-shaped



Interrupted (abdominal straining)



Plateau



Staccato (mostly)



# Initial Management of Functional Lower Urinary Tract Issues

- Drink a lot: keep urine light yellow in color
- Pee a lot: first thing in the morning, last thing at night, and every 2 hours during the day, whether or not the child needs to
- Poop (soft BM, every day!)



EDUCATION

## When Schools Tell Kids They Can't Use the Bathroom

By imposing harsh restrictions on when students can use the restroom, educators are teaching kids to ignore their bladder.

BY ALIA WONG  
26 FEBRUARY 2019 · 5-MIN READ

## Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction in Elementary School Children: Results of a Cross-Sectional Teacher Survey

Lauren N. Ko, Kai-wen Chuang, Angelique Champeau, I. Elaine Allen and Hillary L. Copp\*

*From Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, and University of California-San Francisco (KC, AC, IEA, HLO), San Francisco, California*

Neveus et al 2010; Cooper et al 2003; Arlen et al 2011

# Behavioral Modification

- 30-50% of patients will improve with timed voiding alone (but one-third will recur within a year)
- Up to 88% of patients will improve with a regimen combining timed voiding, modification of fluid intake, pelvic-floor exercises, and voiding diaries
- Medical therapy is thus an adjunct to, rather than a replacement for, behavioral modification

# Pelvic Floor Biofeedback Training

- Requires motivated children and parents
- Better results if elimination habits optimized (consider PT if GI issues also)
- In one study, up 89% of patients will have symptomatic improvement and 61% will have symptom resolution using biofeedback with animation
  - In another study, similar rates of symptomatic success but children who were treated with animation had larger decrease in PVR

Well..... What About the Poop?  
(slides from Dr. Ambartsumyan)



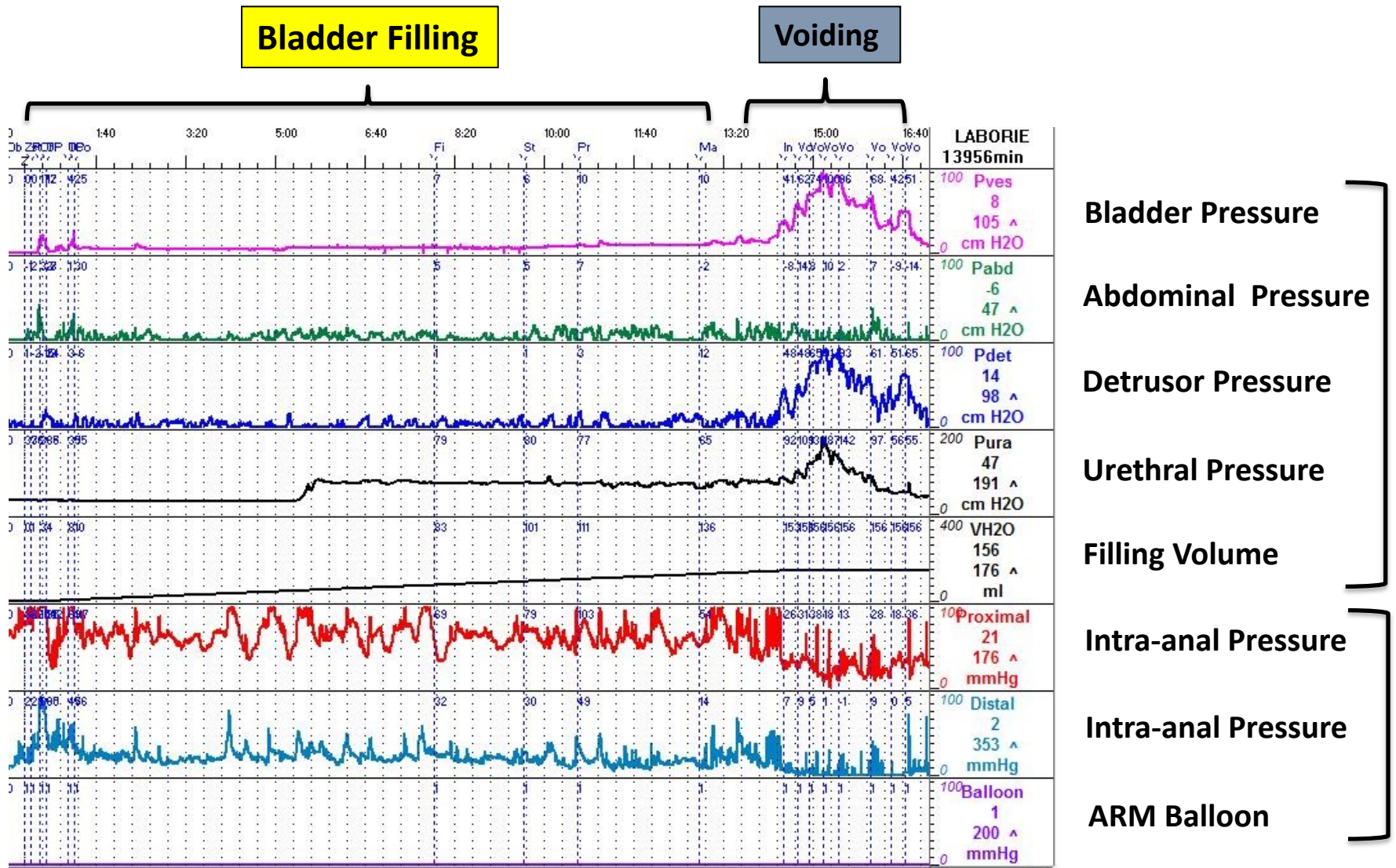
# Simultaneous urodynamic and anorectal manometry studies in children: insights into the relationship between the lower gastrointestinal and lower urinary tracts

L. AMBARTSUMYAN,<sup>\*</sup> A. SIDDIQUI,<sup>\*</sup> S. BAUER<sup>†</sup> & S. NURKO<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Center for Motility and Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

<sup>†</sup>Department of Urology, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

# Combined Urodynamics & Anorectal Manometry

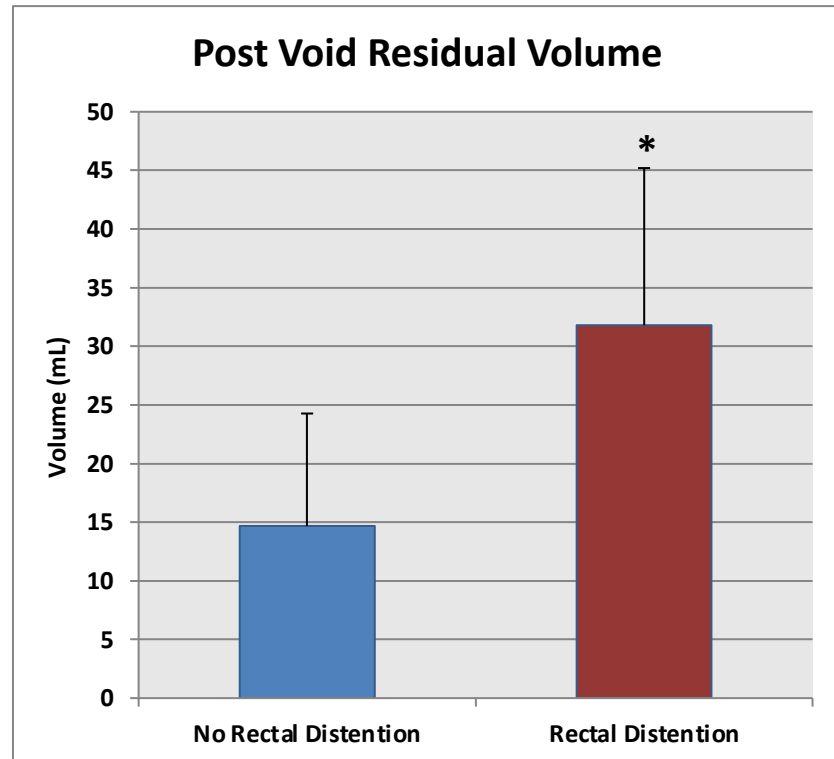


# Bladder Dynamics

## Increase in Post Void Residual with rectal balloon distention

**Patients did not effectively empty their bladder when the rectum was distended**

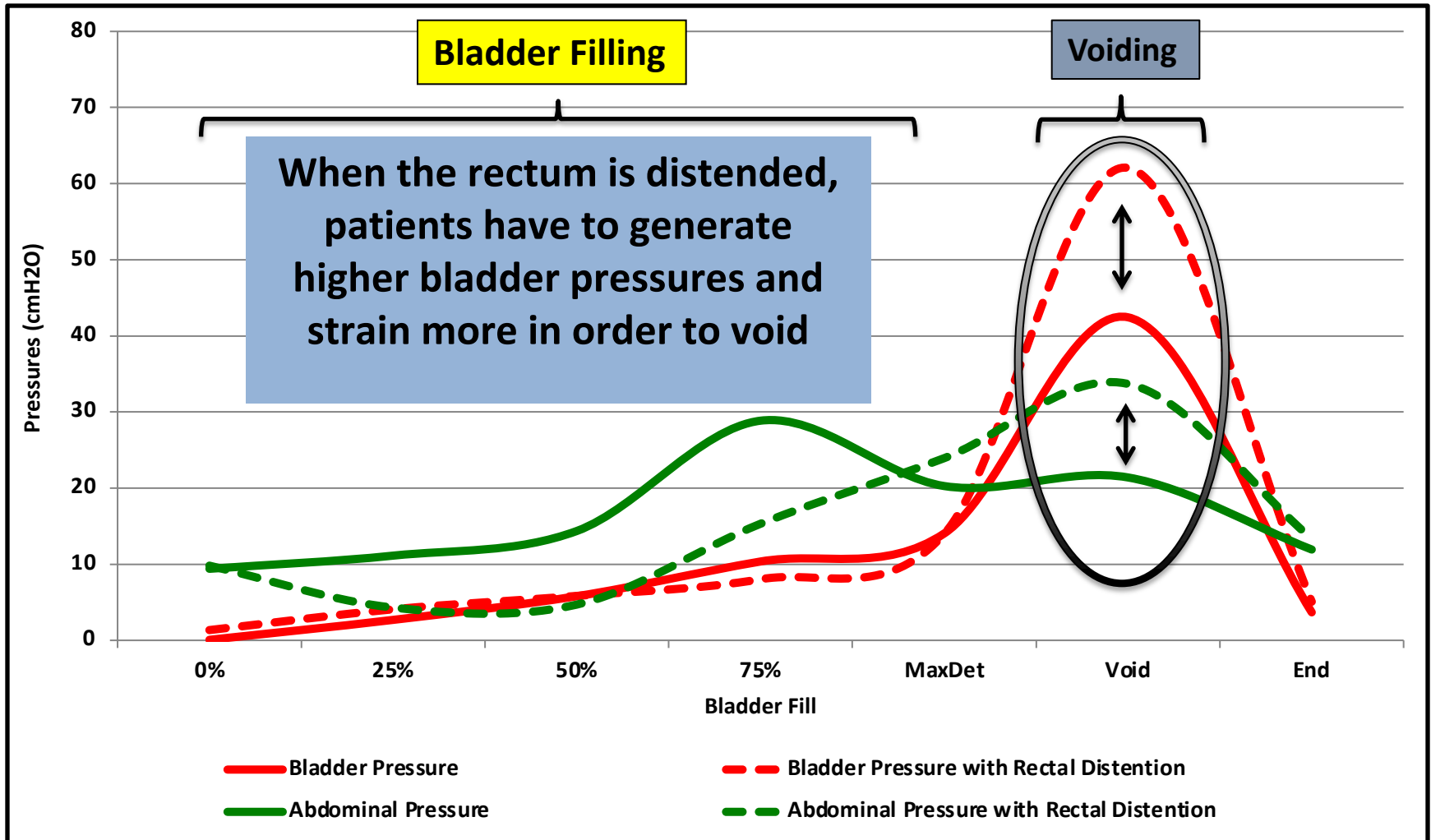
**Increased PVR Volume is associated with Urinary Tract Infections**



$p = 0.01$

# Bladder Void Dynamics

## Increase in Bladder and Abdominal pressures during voiding with rectal balloon distention





**Assessment**

**Comprehensive History  
Physical Examination  
Symptom Based Criteria**

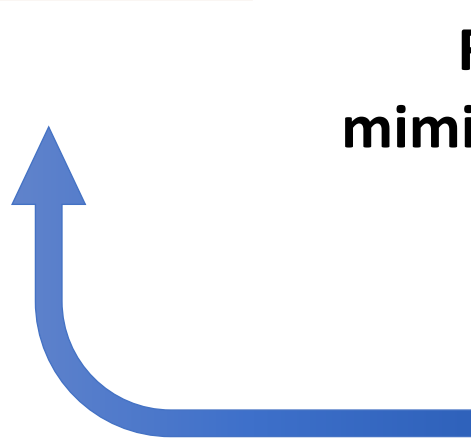
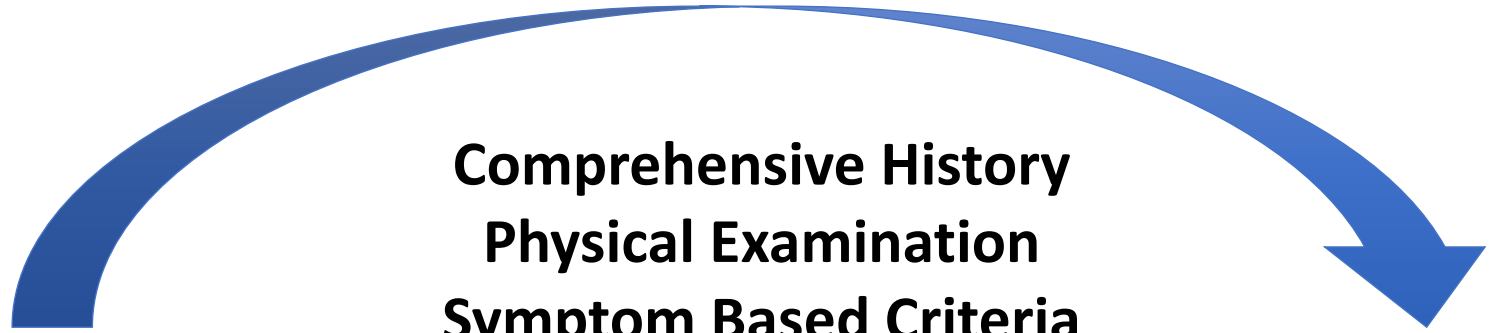


**Reassess for  
organic disease**

**Treatment**

**Rule out disorders that  
mimic defecation abnormalities  
Identify complications**

**Treatment  
Effective ?**



# Alarm Signs & Symptoms

Constipation starting extremely early in life (<1 mo)

★ Passage of meconium >48 h

Family history of HD

Ribbon stools

Blood in the stools in the absence of anal fissures

Failure to thrive

Fever

★ Bilious vomiting

Abnormal thyroid gland

★ Severe abdominal distension

Perianal fistula

Abnormal position of anus

Absent anal or cremasteric reflex

Decreased lower extremity strength/tone/reflex

Tuft of hair on spine

Sacral dimple

Gluteal cleft deviation

Extreme fear during anal inspection

Anal scars

## Hirschsprung's Disease

- Up to 99% of neonates pass meconium within 48 hours of life
- 33-50% of neonates with HD also pass meconium within 48 hours of life

## Anorectal Malformations

## Neurologic Spinal Anomaly

## Sexual abuse

# Goals of Treatment

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**Facilitate colonic emptying**

**Ensure fecal continence**

**Preserve colonic neuromuscular integrity**



# Treatment: Non-Pharmacological

## Dietary Fiber

- Soluble & Insoluble

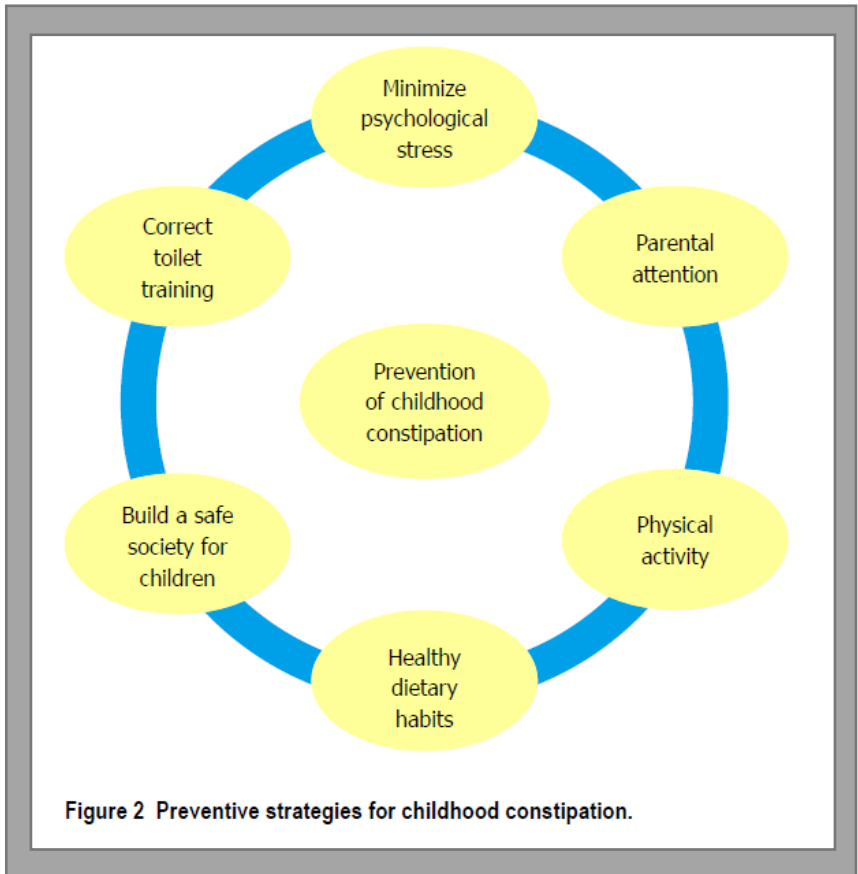
## Fluid Intake

## Physical Activity

## Probiotics & Prebiotics

## Behavioral Therapy

## Biofeedback



Koppen I. et al. Childhood constipation: finally something is moving! Expert Rev. 2016 Gastroenterol. Hepatol. 10(1);141-155

Tabbers M.M, et al. *Evaluation and Treatment of Functional constipation in Infants and Children: Evidence-Based Recommendations From ESPGHAN and NASPGHAN*. JPGN 2014;58: 258-274

Koppen I et.al. Management of functional Constipation in Children: Therapy in Practice. *Pediatr Drugs*(2015)17:349-360

Rajindrajith S, et al. Childhood constipation as an emerging public health problem. *World J. Gastroenterol* 2016 Aug;14:22(30):6864-75

## CLINICAL—ALIMENTARY TRACT

### Effectiveness of Pelvic Physiotherapy in Children With Functional Constipation Compared With Standard Medical Care



Marieke L. van Engelenburg-van Lonkhuyzen,<sup>1</sup> Esther M. J. Bols,<sup>1</sup> Marc A. Benninga,<sup>2</sup> Wim A. Verwijs,<sup>3</sup> and Rob A. de Bie<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Epidemiology, School for Public Health and Primary Care, Maastricht University Medical Centre, Maastricht, The Netherlands; <sup>2</sup>Department of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Emma Children's Hospital/Amsterdam Medical Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; <sup>3</sup>Department of Paediatrics, Zuwe Hofpoort Hospital, Woerden, The Netherlands

ORIGINAL  
ARTICLES

www.jpeds.com • THE JOURNAL OF PEDIATRICS

(*J Pediatr* 2017;190:74–8).



### Physical Therapy for Fecal Incontinence in Children with Pelvic Floor Dyssynergia

Swathi Muddasani, MBBS<sup>1</sup>, Amanda Moe, PT, DPT<sup>2</sup>, Caitlin Semmelrock, PT, DPT<sup>2</sup>, Caroyl Luan Gilbert, PNP<sup>1,3</sup>, Valentine Enemu, MD<sup>1,3</sup>, Eric Howard Chiou, MD<sup>1,3</sup>, and Bruno Pedro Chumpitazi, MD, MPH<sup>1,3</sup>

# Treatment: Pharmacological

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## Osmotic Laxatives

- Polyethylene glycol
- Lactulose
- Milk of magnesia (magnesium hydroxide)

## Fecal Softeners

- Mineral Oil
- Docusate

**Note: NO RCTs of optimal dosing**

## Stimulant Laxatives

- Senna
- Bisacodyl

## Enemas

- Sodium phosphate
- Sodium docusate
- Mineral Oil
- Glycerin
- Bisacodyl

## Suppositories

- Glycerin
- Bisacodyl

# Treatment

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## Duration of treatment

- No randomized controlled trials available
- Should be continued for at least 2 months
  - *SCH Motility : 3-6 months*

## Discontinuation

- Resolution of all symptoms for at least 1 month
- Completed toilet training
- Gradual weaning of medications
  - *SCH Motility : over 6-12 months*

# Thank you

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