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Summary

STUDY OF CORTICO-ANO-RECTAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY IN WOMEN WITH FECAL INCONTINENCE

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Colorectal

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Observational study in 18 women with fecal incontinence found motor efferent pathway impairments throughout the cortico-ano-rectal axis, with 82.4% showing delayed latencies in at least one segment beyond the pelvic floor.

KEY POINTS

- Among 18 women with fecal incontinence (mean age 63.4 years), 82.4% showed delayed motor evoked potential latencies in at least one cortico-ano-rectal segment when compared to age-matched healthy volunteers, with 50% showing impairments in the cortico-spinal segment, 50% in the lumbo-anal segment, and 44.4% in the sacral segment.
- High-resolution manometry revealed 83.24% had external anal sphincter impairment and 40% had internal sphincter impairment, while endoanal ultrasound showed 58.82% had external sphincter tears and 11.76% had puborectalis injuries.
- Pudendal nerve terminal motor latency testing identified motor neuropathy in at least one pudendal nerve branch in 20% of patients, with significant left-sided latency prolongation compared to young healthy volunteers.
- The authors suggest these findings indicate a complex pathophysiology involving neural pathway impairment at higher levels and propose that future neural stimulation strategies at cortical or spinal level might benefit patient rehabilitation.

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