



**Multidisciplinary Approaches to Cancer Symposium**

# Cancer Pain Management: Interventional Therapies

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City of Hope Medical Center

# Disclosures

- I do not have any relevant financial relationships.

*This presentation and/or comments will provide a balanced, non-promotional, and evidence-based approach to all diagnostic, therapeutic and/or research related content.*

# Cultural Linguistic Competency (CLC) & Implicit Bias (IB)

## **STATE LAW:**

The California legislature has passed Assembly Bill (AB) 1195, which states that as of July 1, 2006, all Category 1 CME activities that relate to patient care must include a cultural diversity/linguistics component. It has also passed AB 241, which states that as of January 1, 2022, all continuing education courses for a physician and surgeon **must** contain curriculum that includes specified instruction in the understanding of implicit bias in medical treatment.

*The cultural and linguistic competency (CLC) and implicit bias (IB) definitions reiterate how patients' diverse backgrounds may impact their access to care.*

## **EXEMPTION:**

Business and Professions Code 2190.1 exempts activities which are dedicated solely to research or other issues that do not contain a direct patient care component.

***The following CLC & IB components will be addressed in this presentation:***

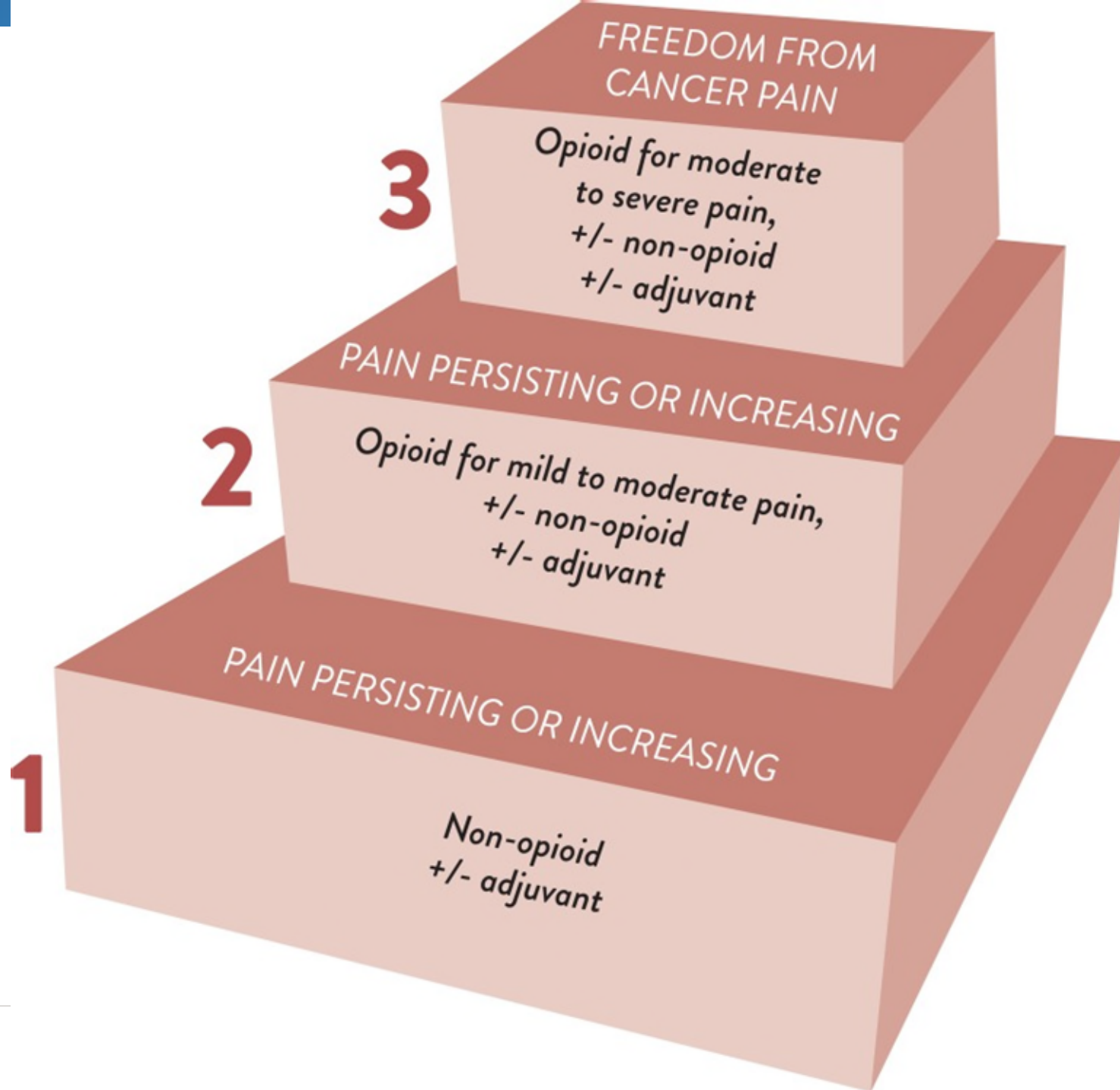
- *Consider racial and age disparities.*

# Is it time to revisit current algorithm of cancer pain management??

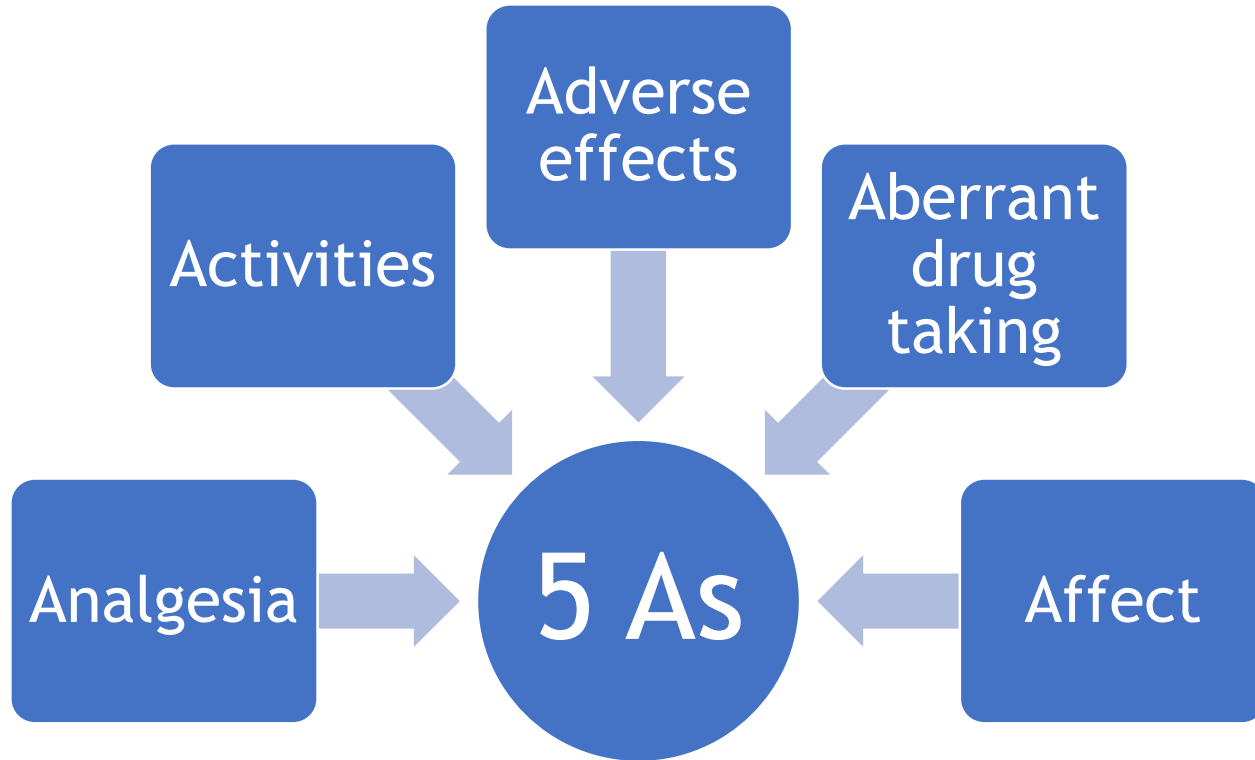
The WHO analgesic ladder has served as the guideline since 1986

Revised algorithm added “ Invasive and Minimally Invasive treatments” as step 4

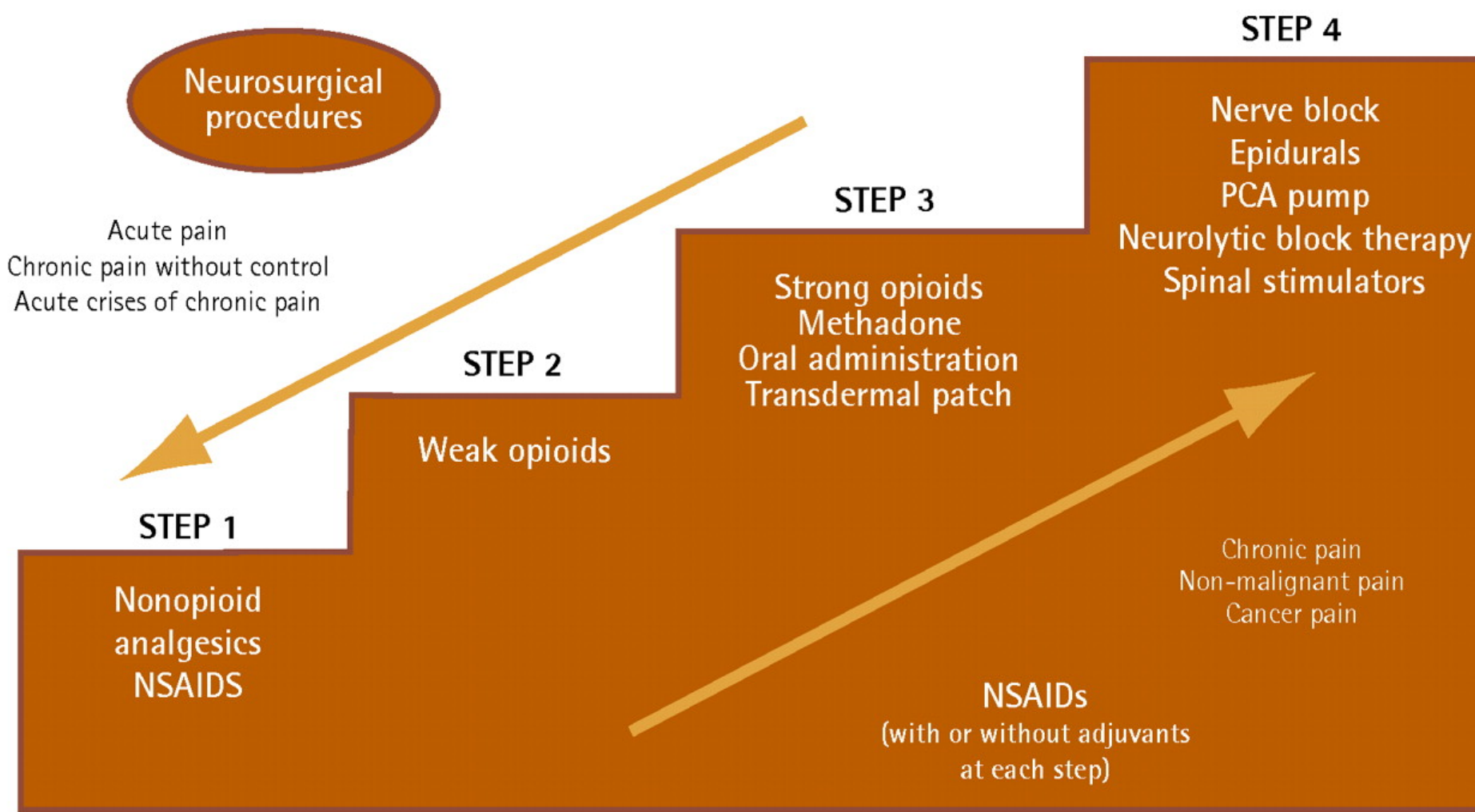




# Goals of Cancer Related Pain Management

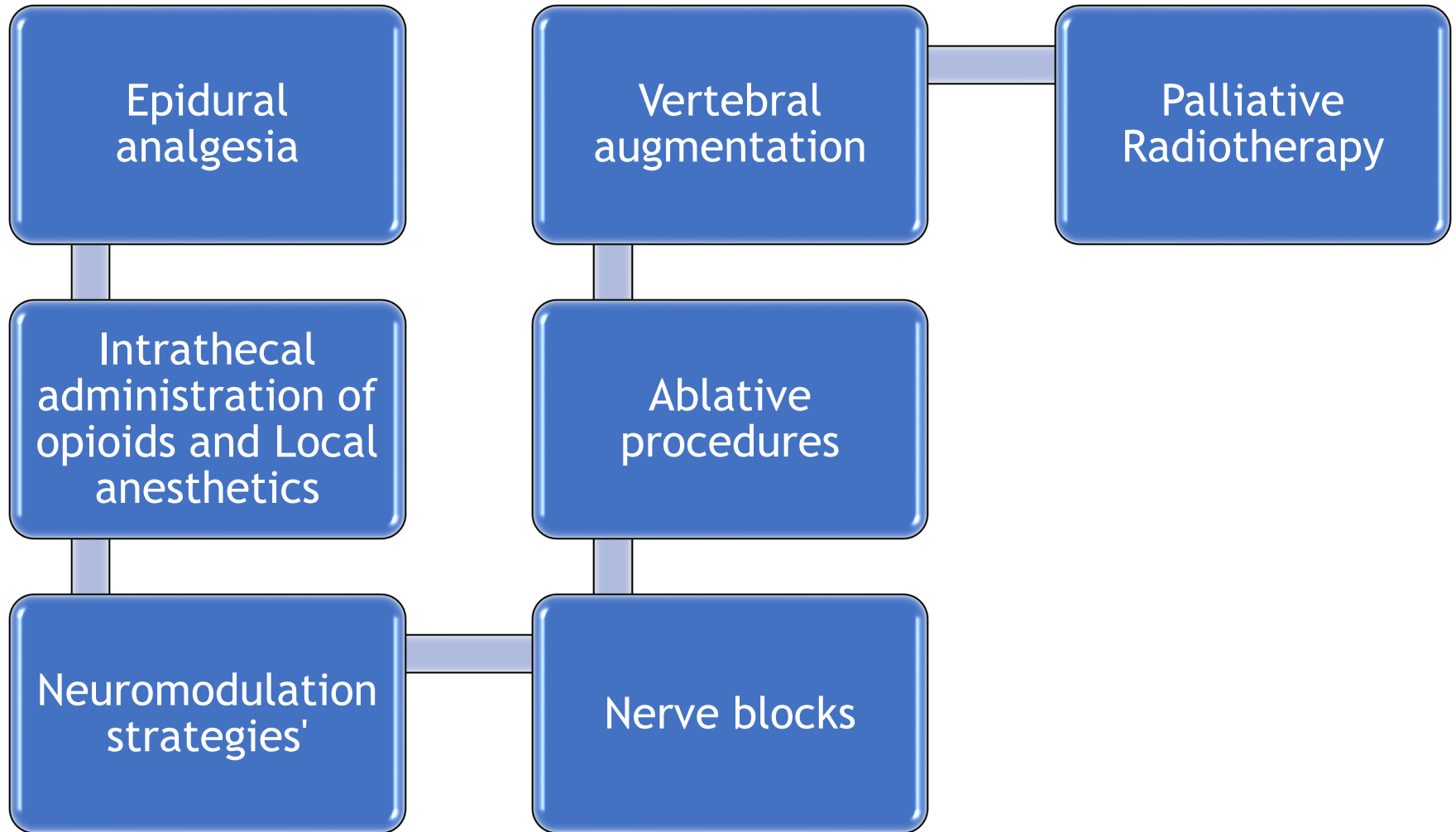


**Figure 2. New adaptation of the analgesic ladder**



NSAID—nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, PCA—patient-controlled analgesia.

# Interventions



# Cancer Pain

## Tumor effects

- local mass
- metastatic disease
- bone pain
- central sensitization

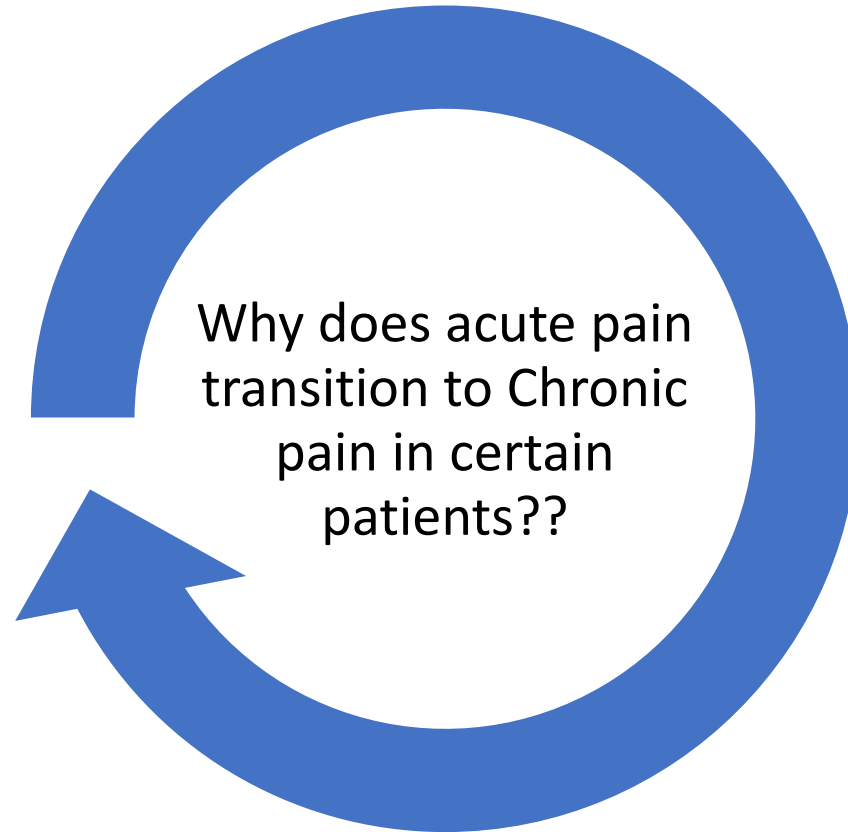
## Treatment related

- Surgery
- Chemo
- RT
- Other - immunotherapy, hormone therapy

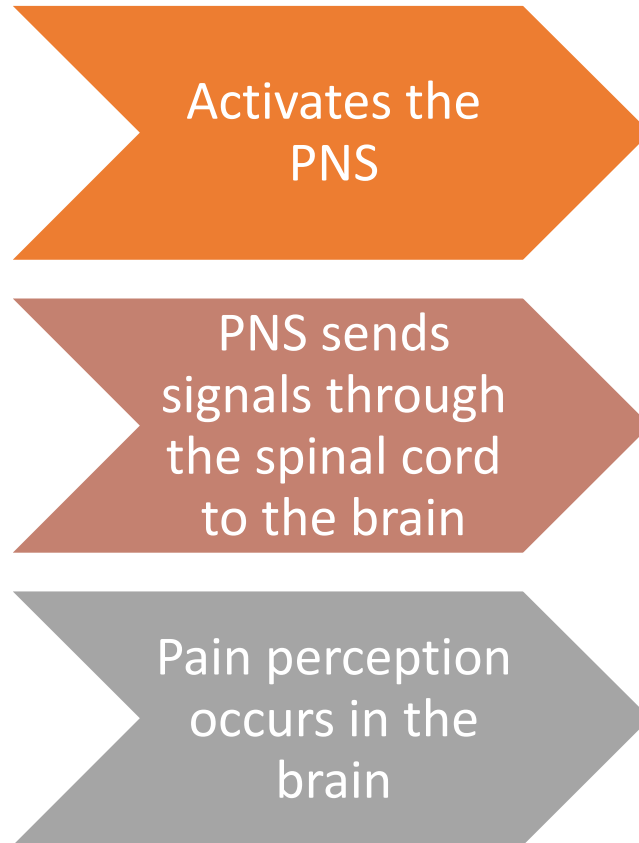
## Associated conditions

- Osteoporosis
- Immunosuppression (HSV)
- Hypercalcemia
- immobility

## Pain unrelated to cancer



# Tissue Injury



# Sequence of Events

Transduction

Transmission

Modulation

Perception





# Transduction

Occurs in the  
peripheral  
terminals

primary afferent  
neurons where  
different

forms of energy  
e.g. mechanical,  
cold, heat

converted to  
electrical energy

# Transmission

Process by  
which the  
electrical energy  
is conducted  
through the  
nervous system



3 major  
components

# Modulation

Dorsal column is one major site where modulation occurs involving various NT systems.



Process whereby neural activity may be altered along the pain transmission pathway.



It is the balance of the spinal excitatory and inhibitory systems that determine what messages are delivered to the CNS

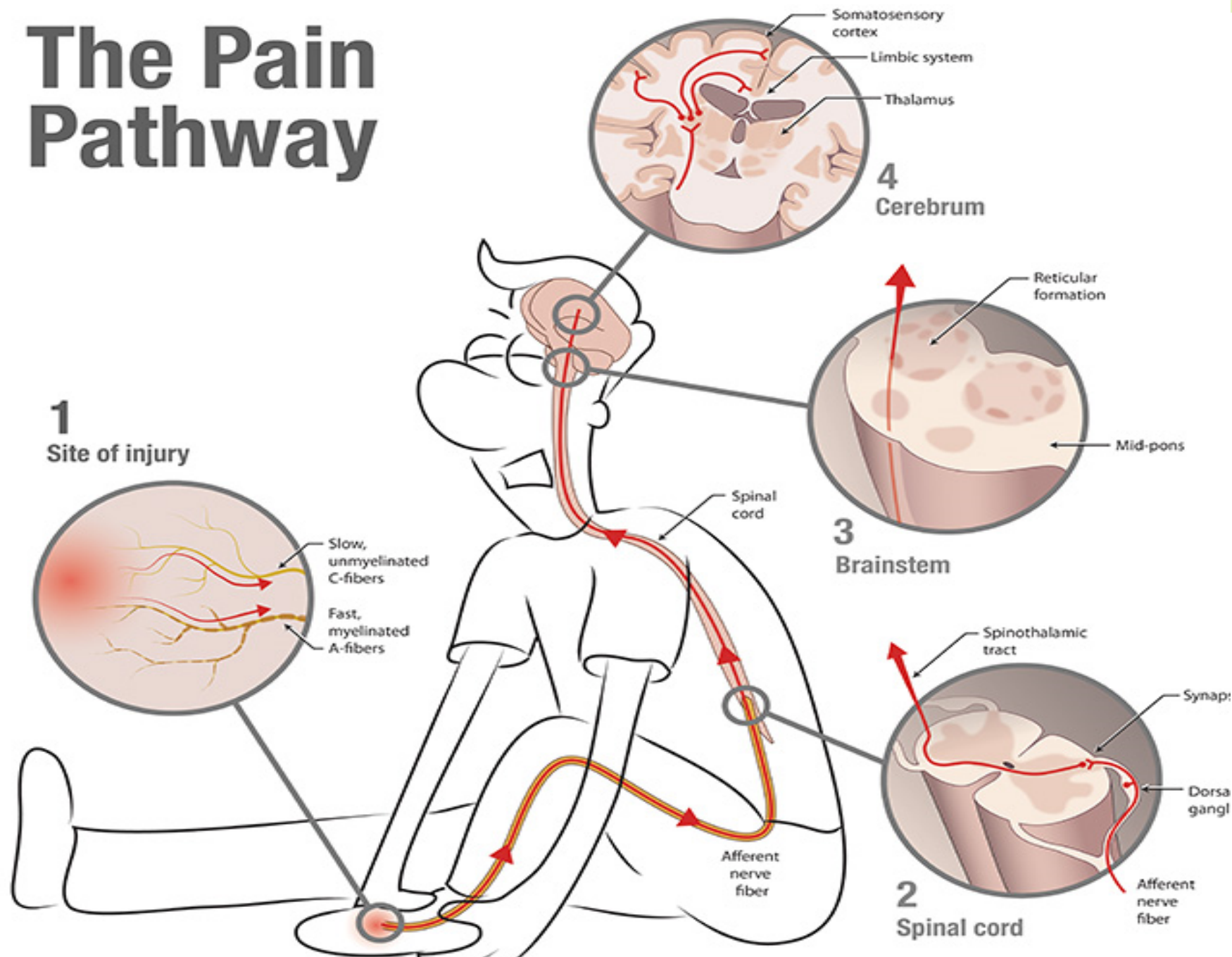
# The concept

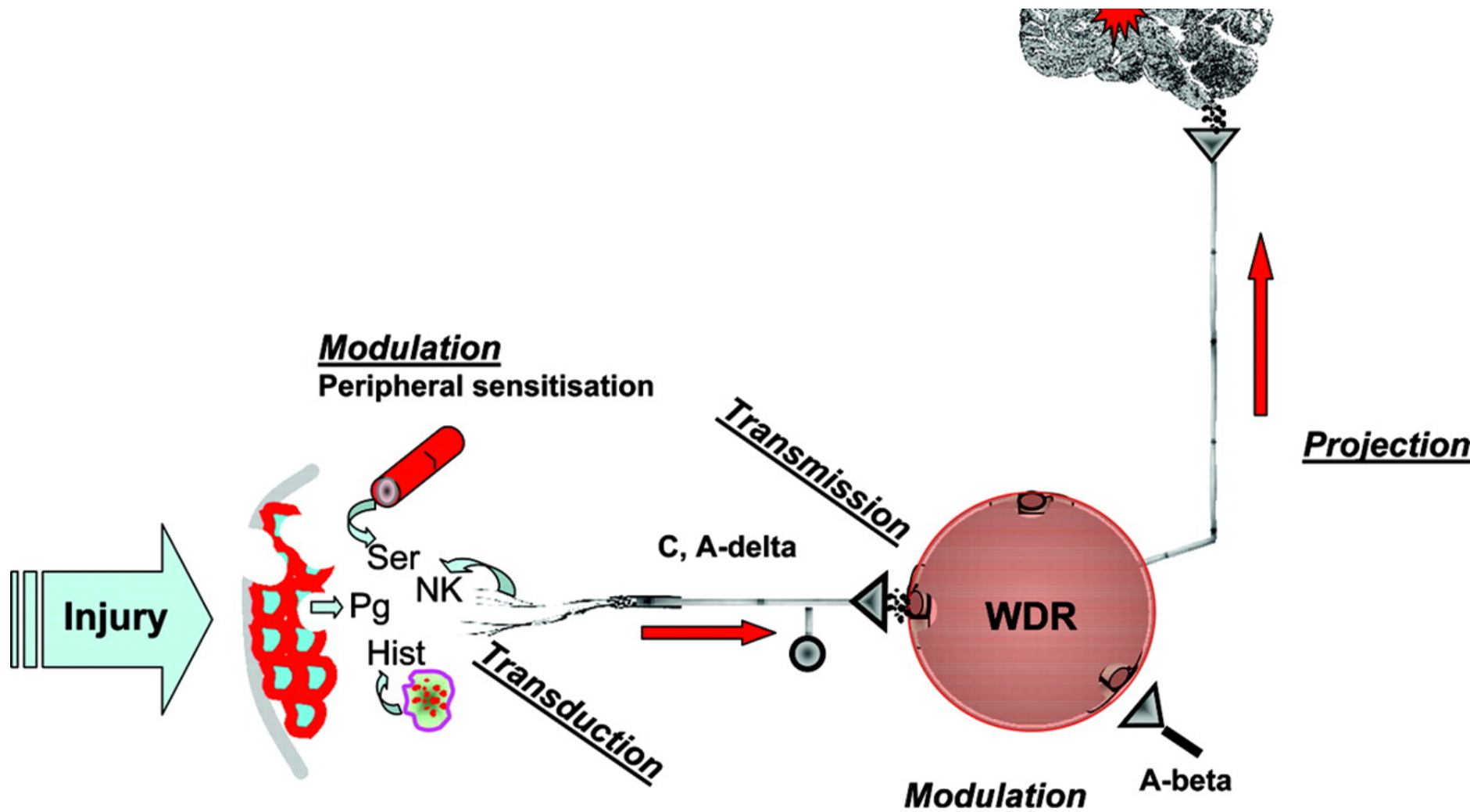
Pain signals are not transmitted to the CNS through “hard wired” pathways



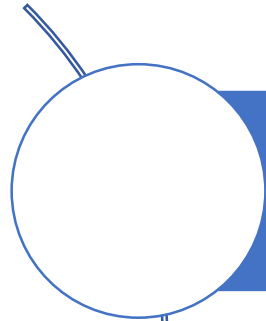
In contrast, nociceptive signals, once initiated, will launch a cascade of alternations in the somatosensory system

# The Pain Pathway

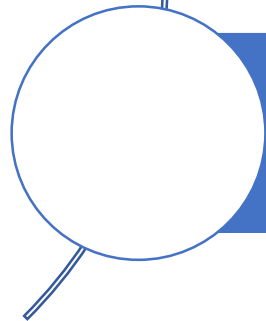




# Dorsal Horn Neurons

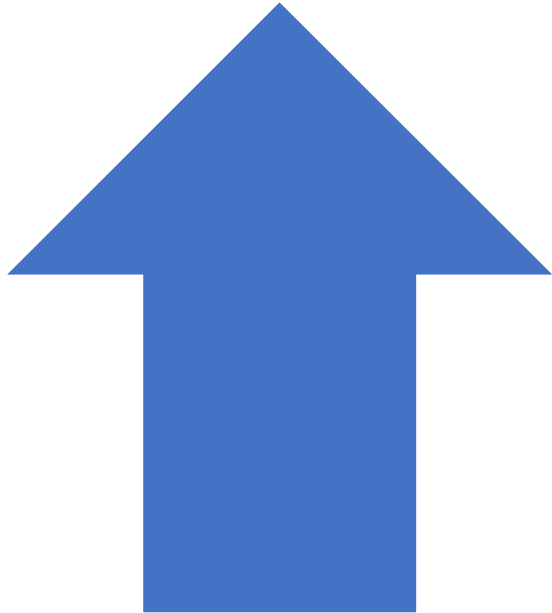


Nociceptive – specific (NS) neurons that respond only to pain signals in ***A $\delta$***  and ***C*** fibers



WDR neurons that respond to both non-nociceptive impulses in ***A $\beta$***  ( touch) and nociceptive impulses in ***A $\delta$***  and ***C*** fibers

## HYPERALGESIA



Signals from the  
A  $\delta$  and C fibers  
will be amplified-  
**HYPERALGESIA**



## ALLODYNIA

Activity in A  $\beta$  fibers will be interpreted not as touch but as pain signals by the WDR neurons - ALLODYNIA

## Central Sensitization

This sensitization may outlast the stimuli that triggered the alterations in the first place and thus become a

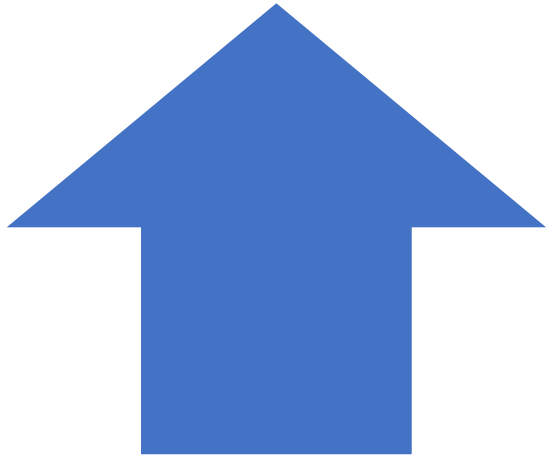


“pain memory”.

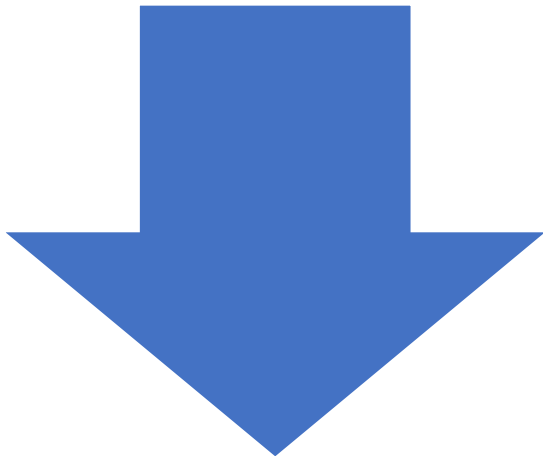
# Neuromodulation



# Neuromodulation



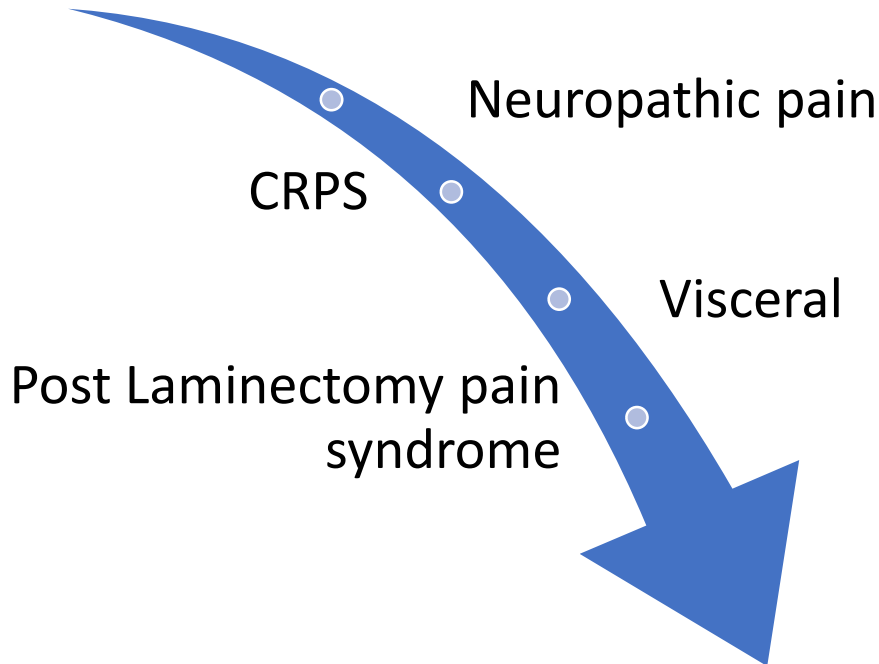
Painful stimuli at periphery (via A-delta and C fibers) override the inhibitory pathways allowing the pain signal to be transmitted opening the “gate” to the CNS



Activation of the large A-Beta non noxious nerve fibers leads to inhibitory neurons to be reactivated allowing the “gate” to close

## Evidence for Spinal Cord Stimulation

Post Herpetic  
Neuralgia



At cross road for

- Cancer pain and Chemotherapy induced Neuropathy

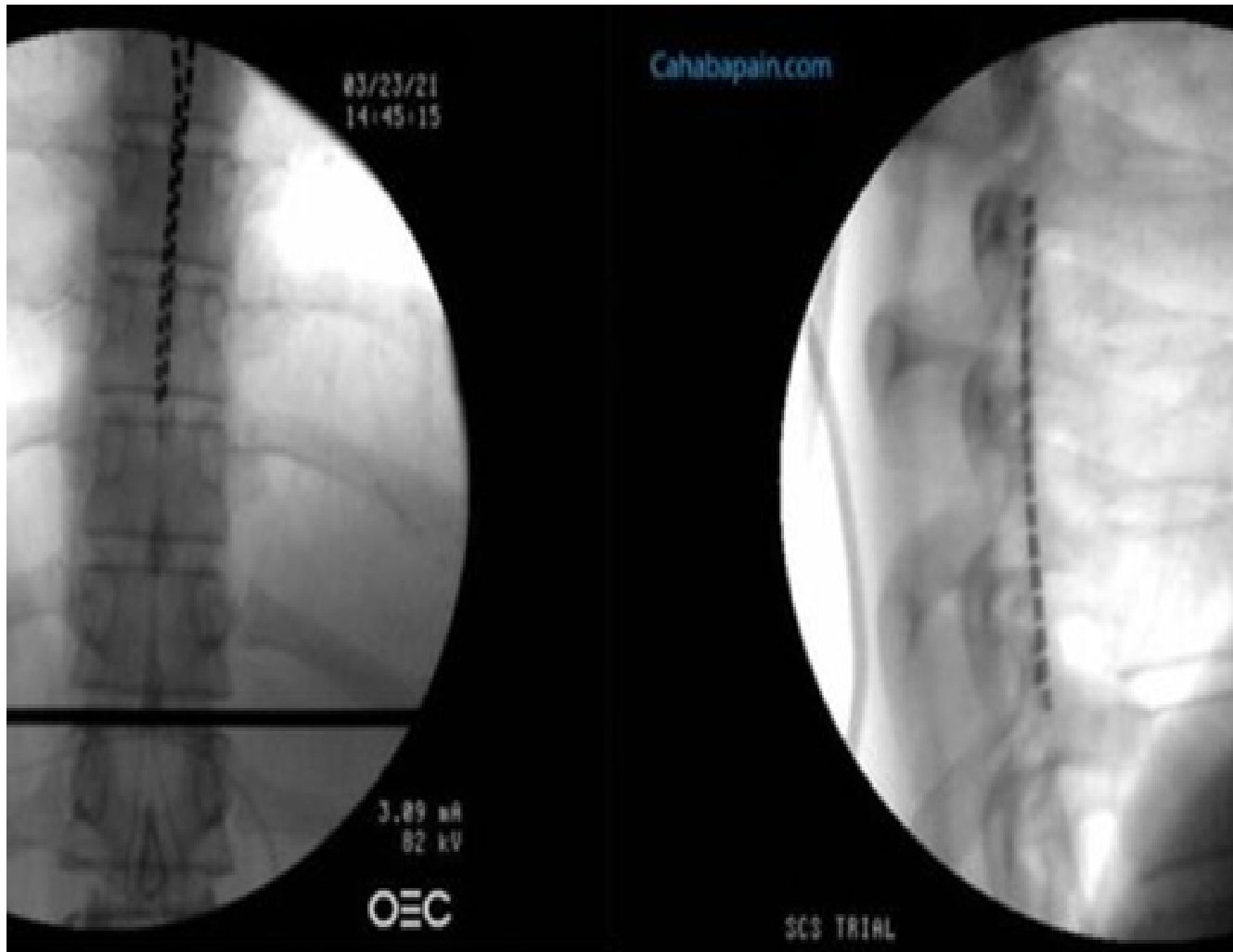
# 2 step process

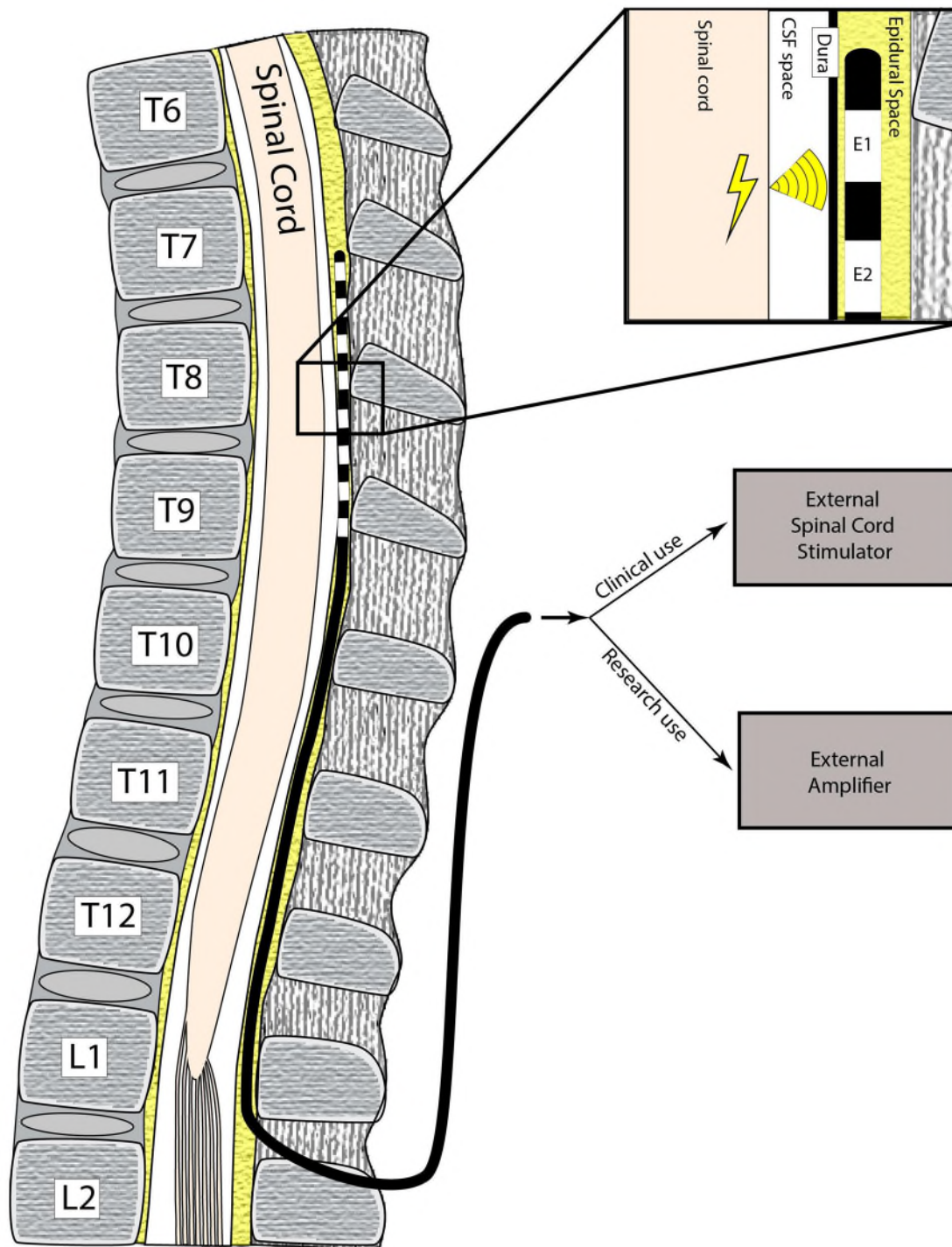
Trial- 3-7 days trial with temporary epidural leads

If >50% relief is achieved, patient is considered for a permanent implantation

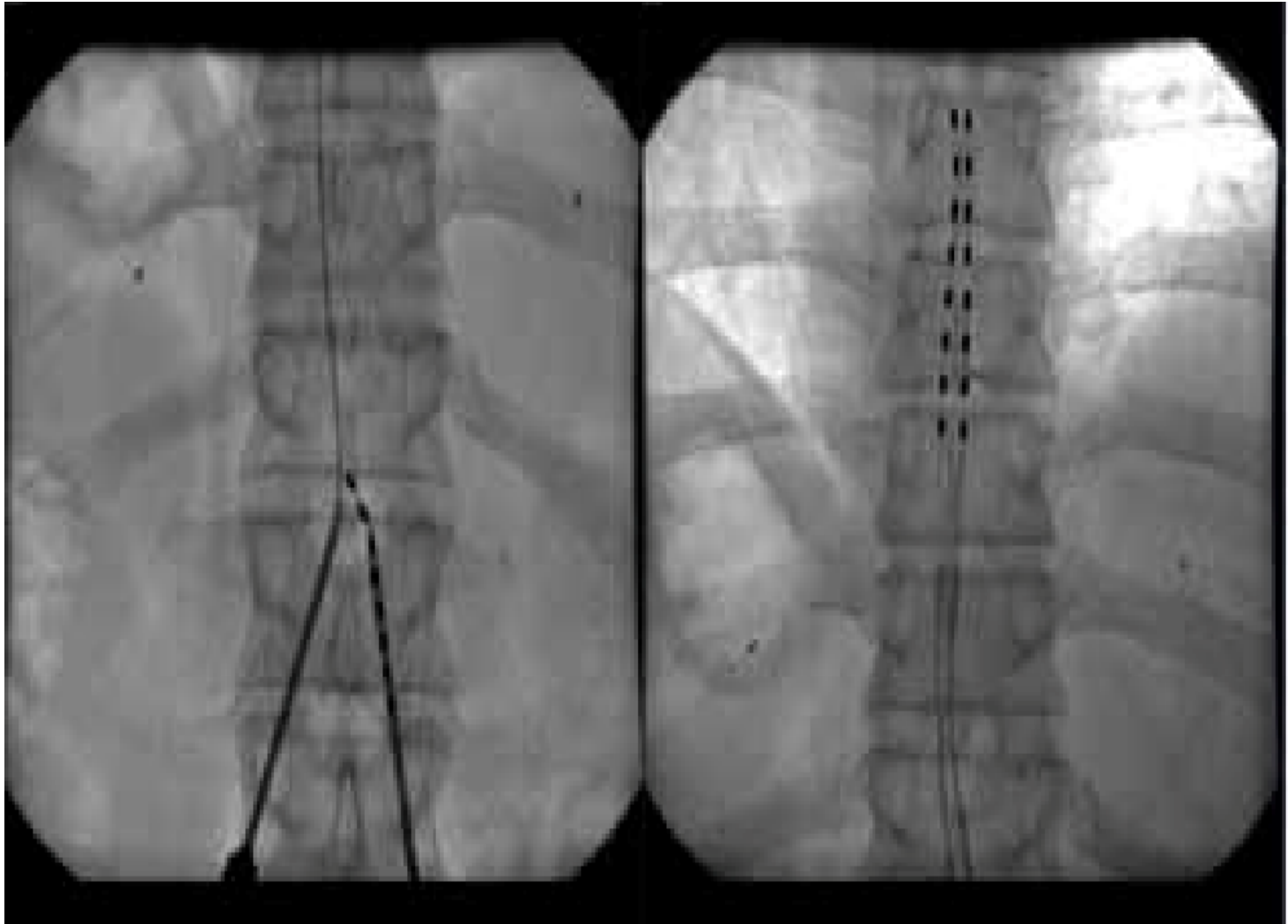
Electrodes that deliver the electrical impulses-  
Paddle or Percutaneous

Generator (IPG) that serves as the power source and pacemaker

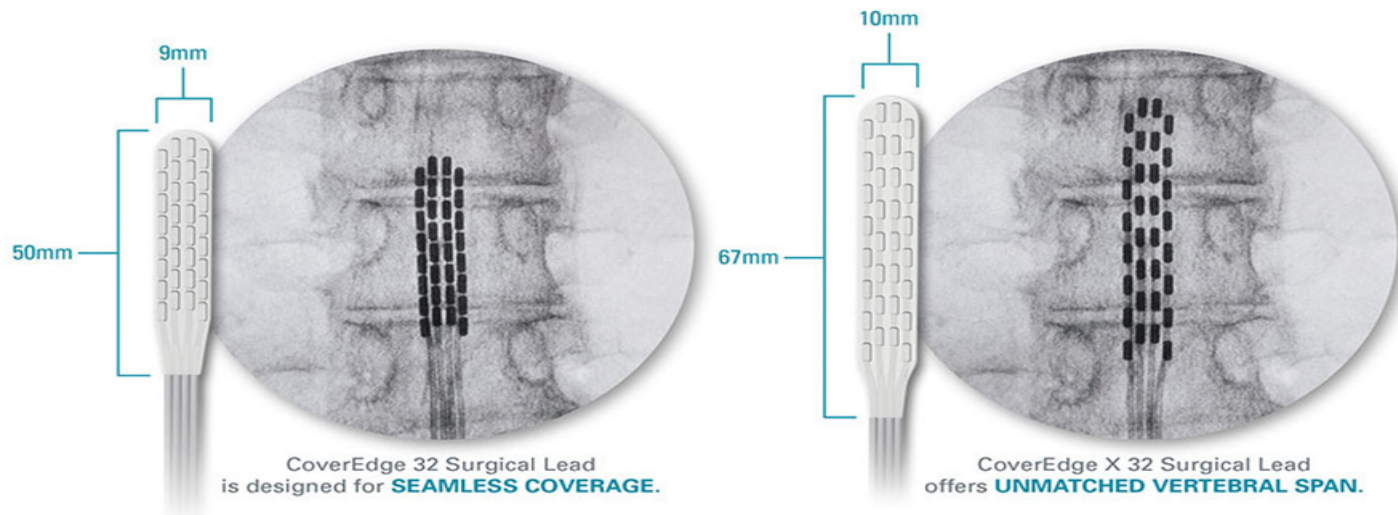








# Paddle Lead



# Brachial plexopathy from Lung CA

4/29/2019

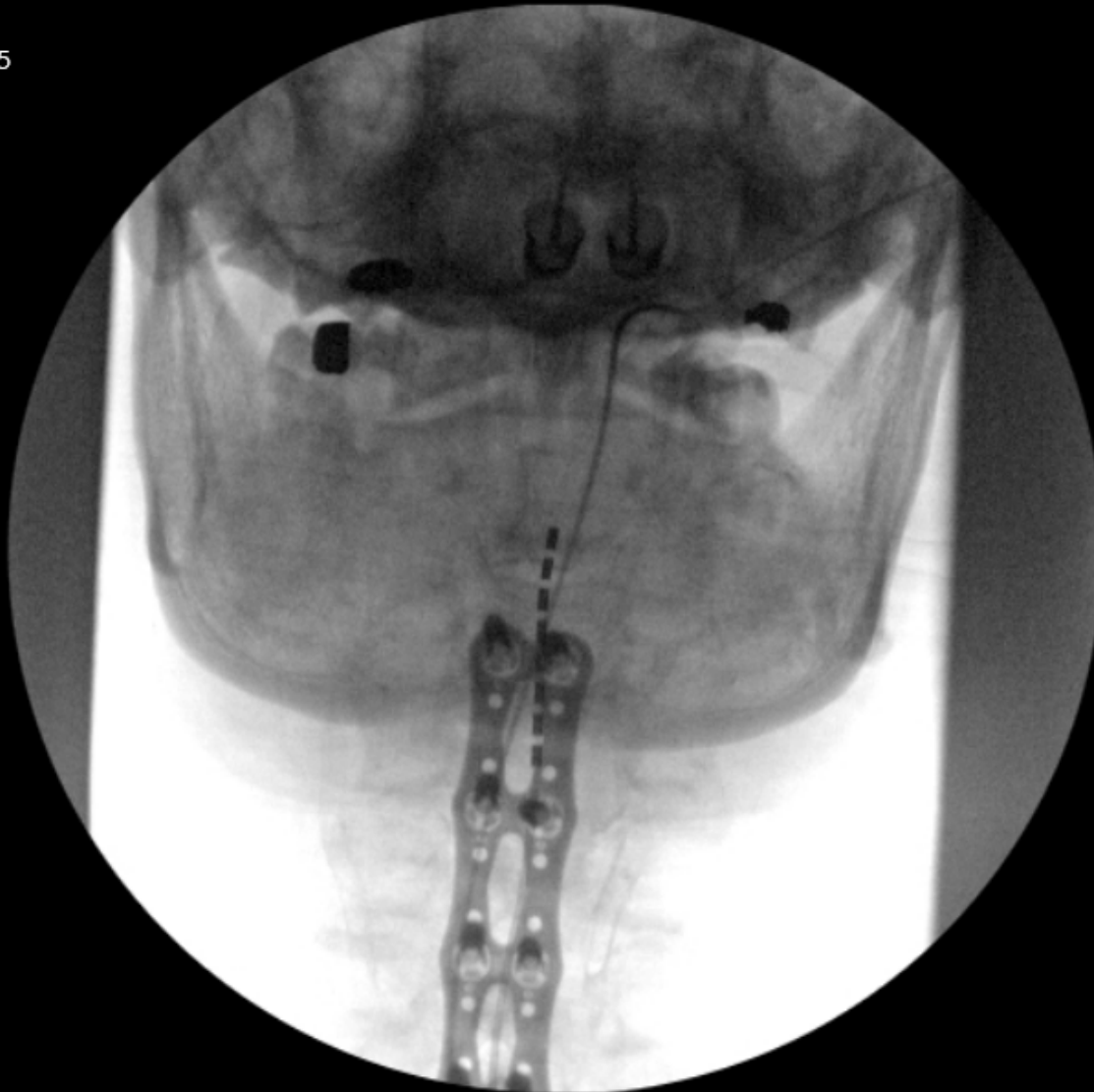
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Image 15 of 8  
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# Metastatic Melanoma

9/6/2019

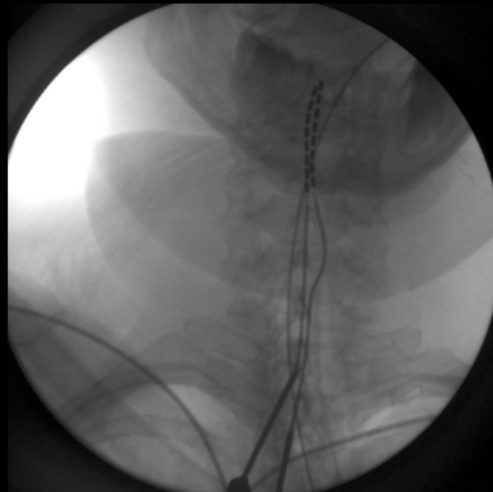
Image 16 of 8

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# Metastatic Colon CA with Sacral Mets

11/18/2019

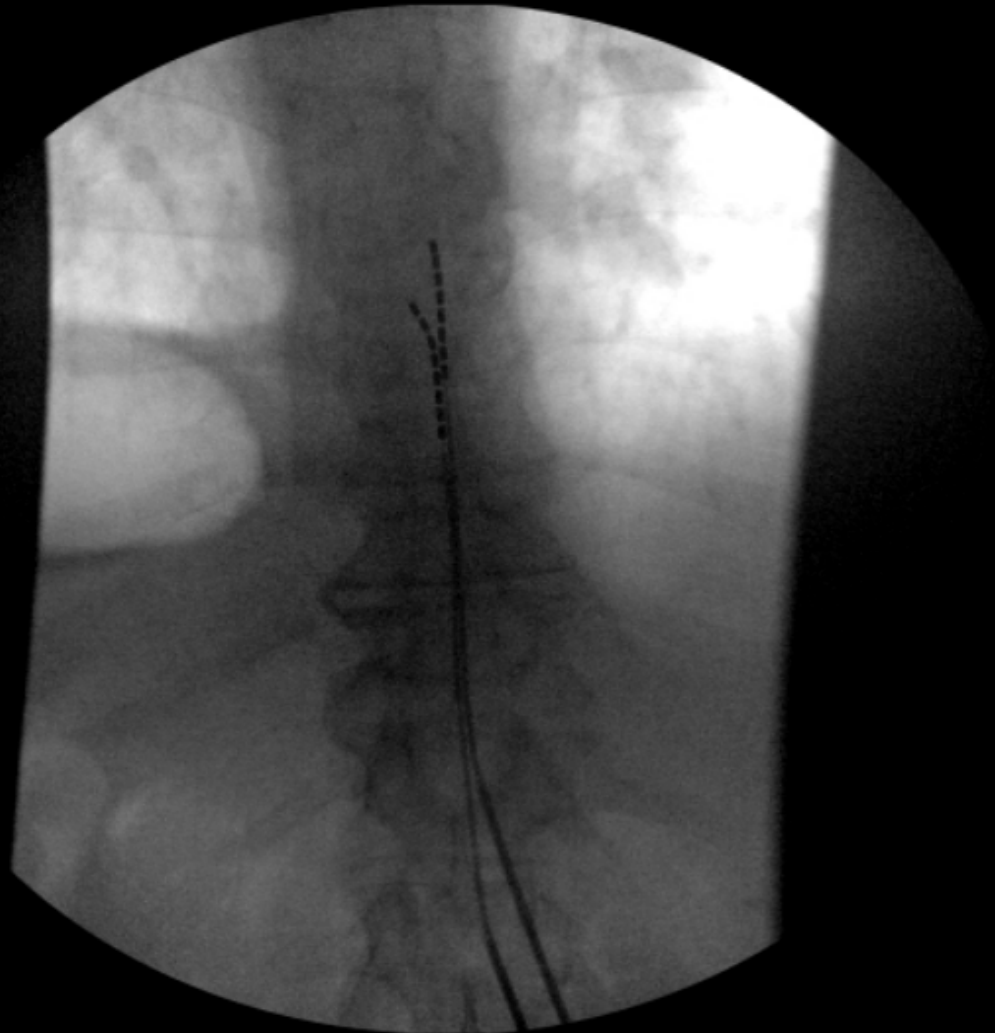
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# Peripheral Nerve Stimulation

Electrical stimulation of a specific nerve trunk via implanted subcutaneous electrodes targeting a named nerve

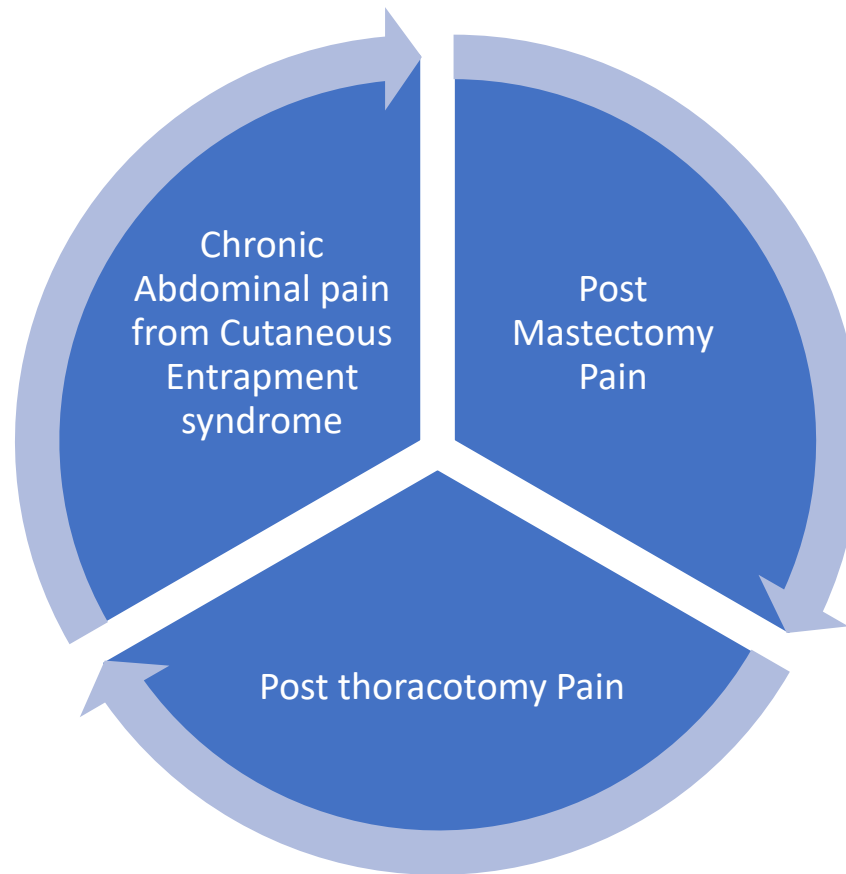
Gate control theory

Stimulation of large non noxious A delta fibers results in excitation of inhibitory dorsal horn pathways

Modulates inflammatory pathways, endogenous pain inhibitory pathways

- Occipital nerve
- Intercostal nerves
- Brachial plexus

# Persistent Post Surgical Pain

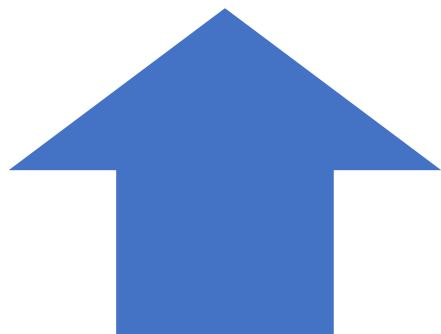




# Post Mastectomy Pain

Chronic neuropathic pain disorder that can occur following breast cancer related procedures

Particularly operations that remove tissue in the upper outer quadrant of the breast and/or axilla

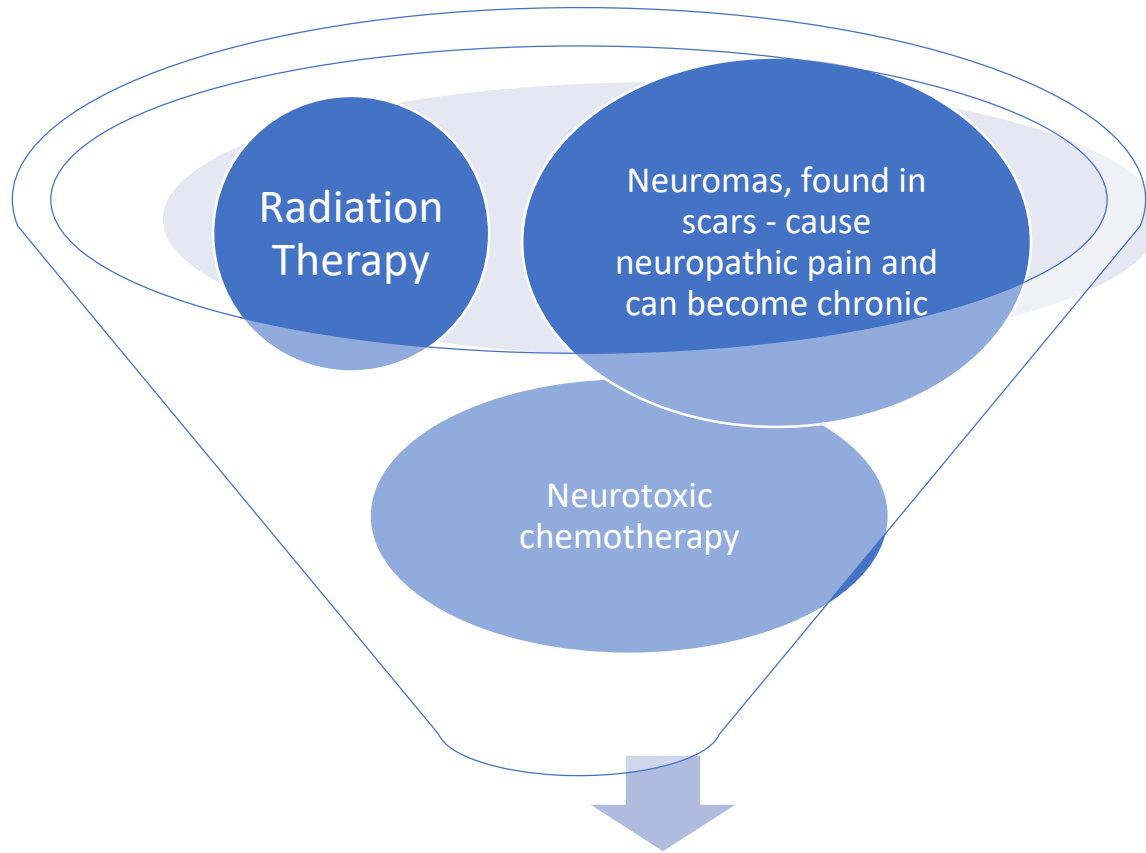


Recently, incidence is estimated to be around 20-50%



Wide variation in estimates largely reflects definitional inconsistencies across studies

# Pathophysiology



Damaged nerves are easily excitatory, sending constant barrage of painful impulses with slightest mechanical distortion

# Regional Anesthesia



PECS 1 Block



PECS 2 Block



Serratus Anterior Plane Block



Deep Serratus Anterior Plane Block



Erector Spinae Plane Block

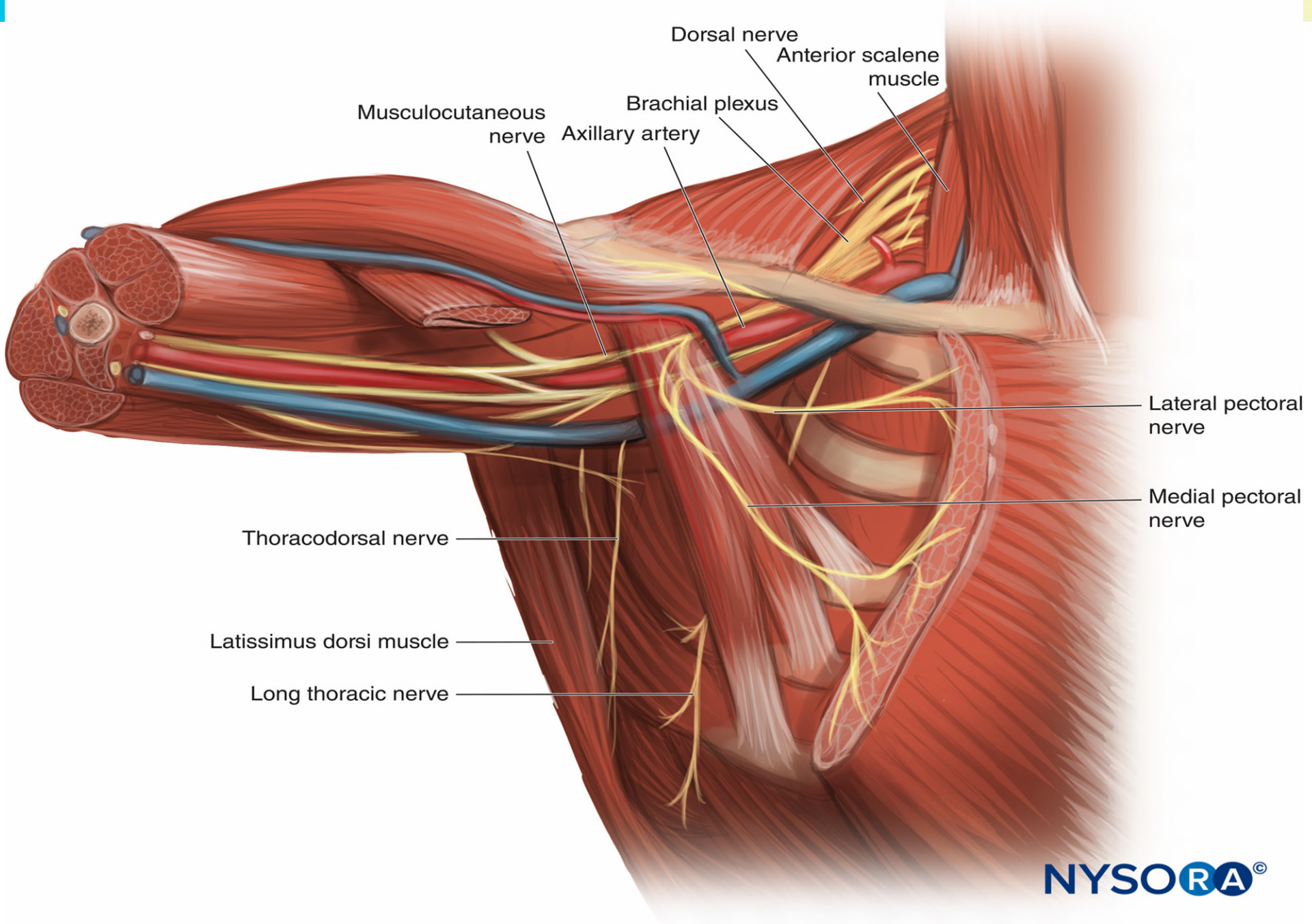
# Chest innervation

The lateral pectoral nerve and median pectoral nerve

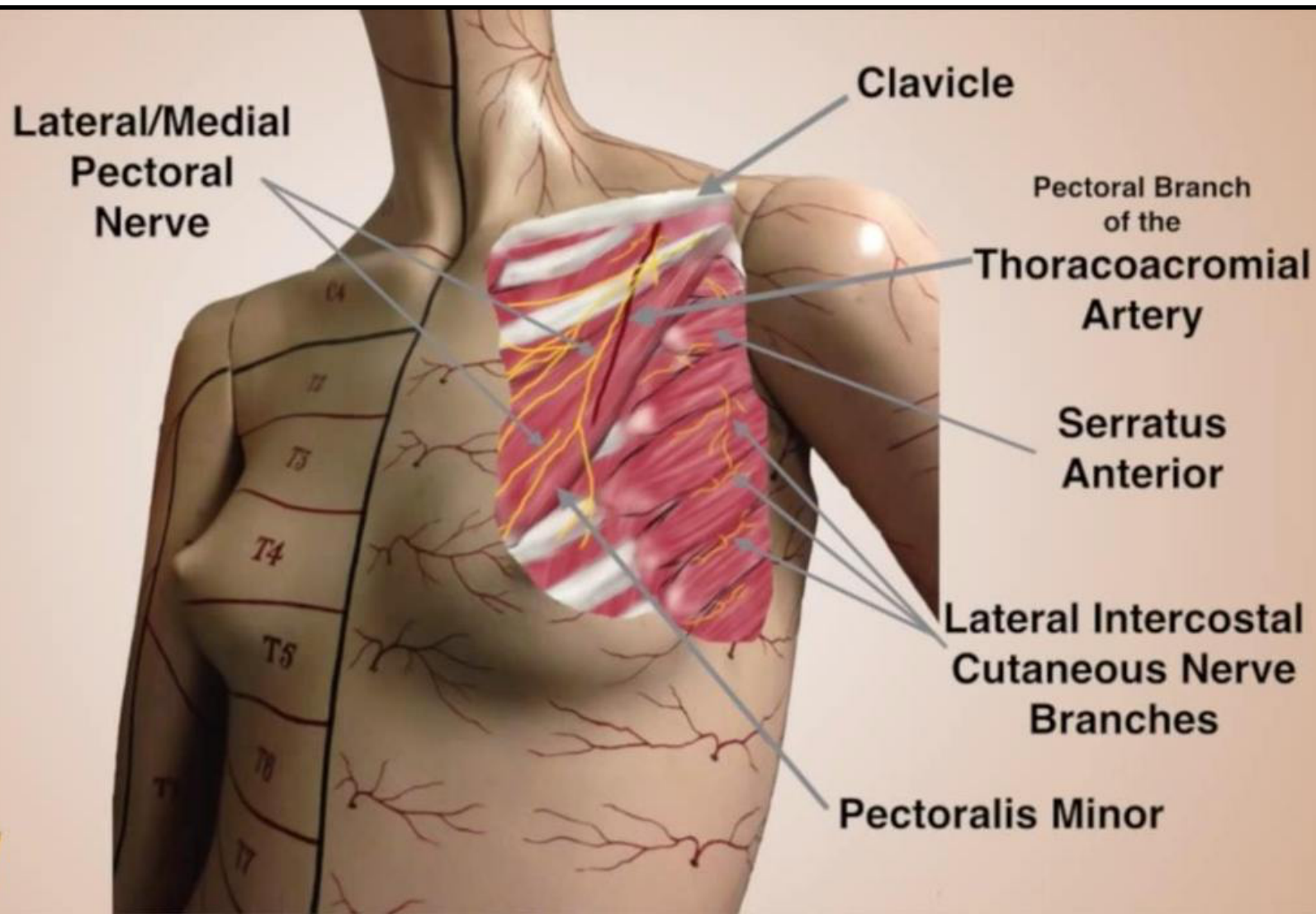
The anterior division of thoracic intercostal nerves from T2-6

The long thoracic nerve (nerve to serratus anterior) - brachial plexus

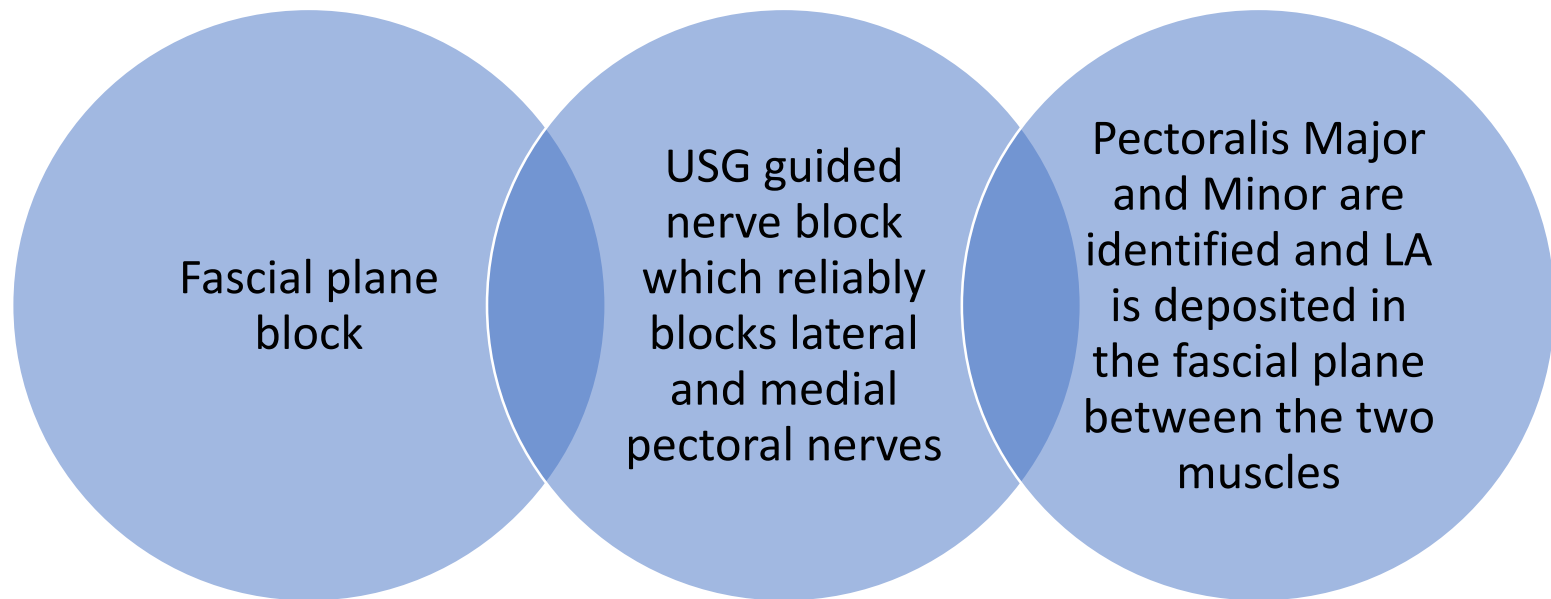
Thoracodorsal nerve (nerve to latissimus dorsi) - posterior cord of the brachial plexus



*LSORA*



# PECS block





C4

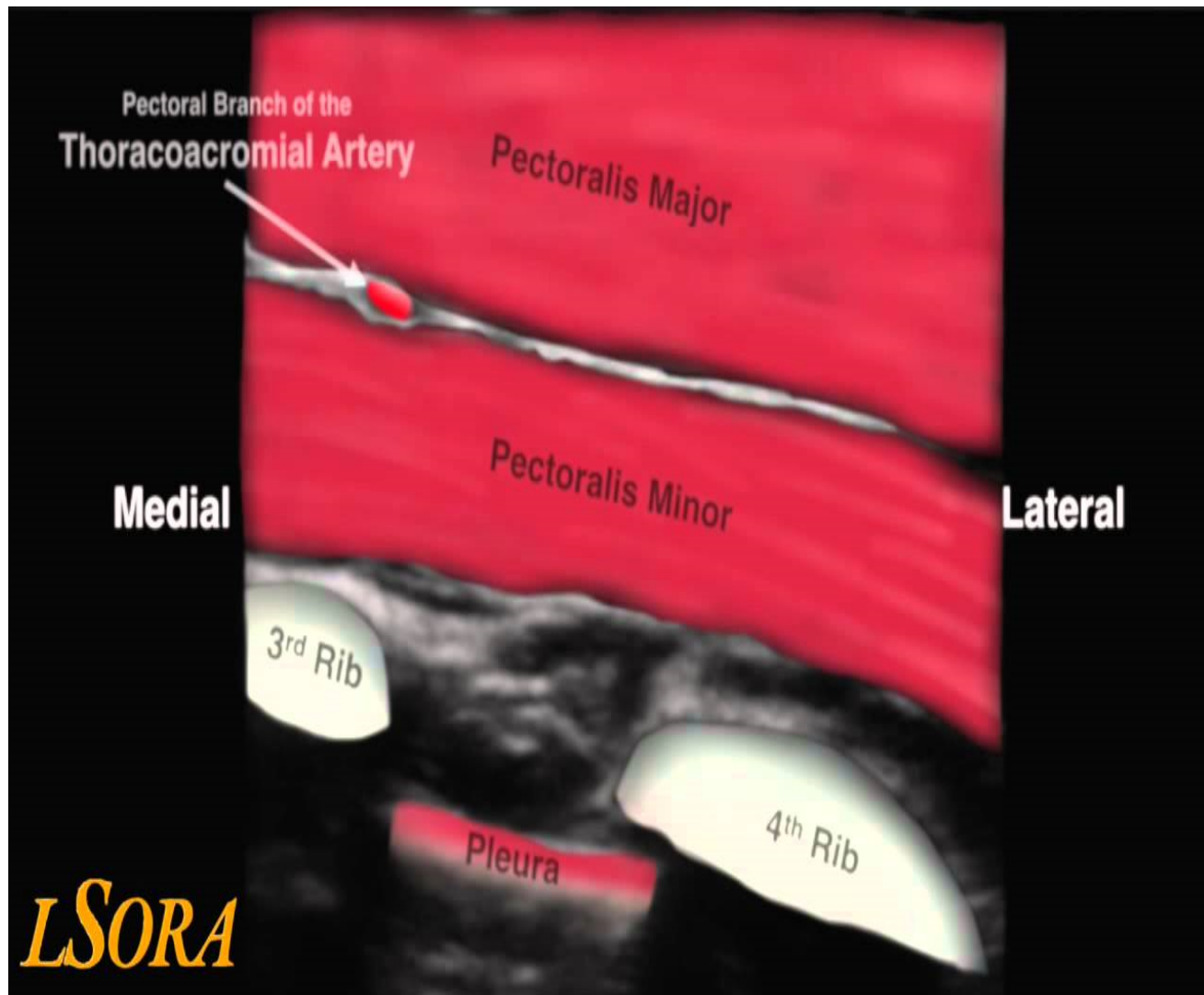
T2

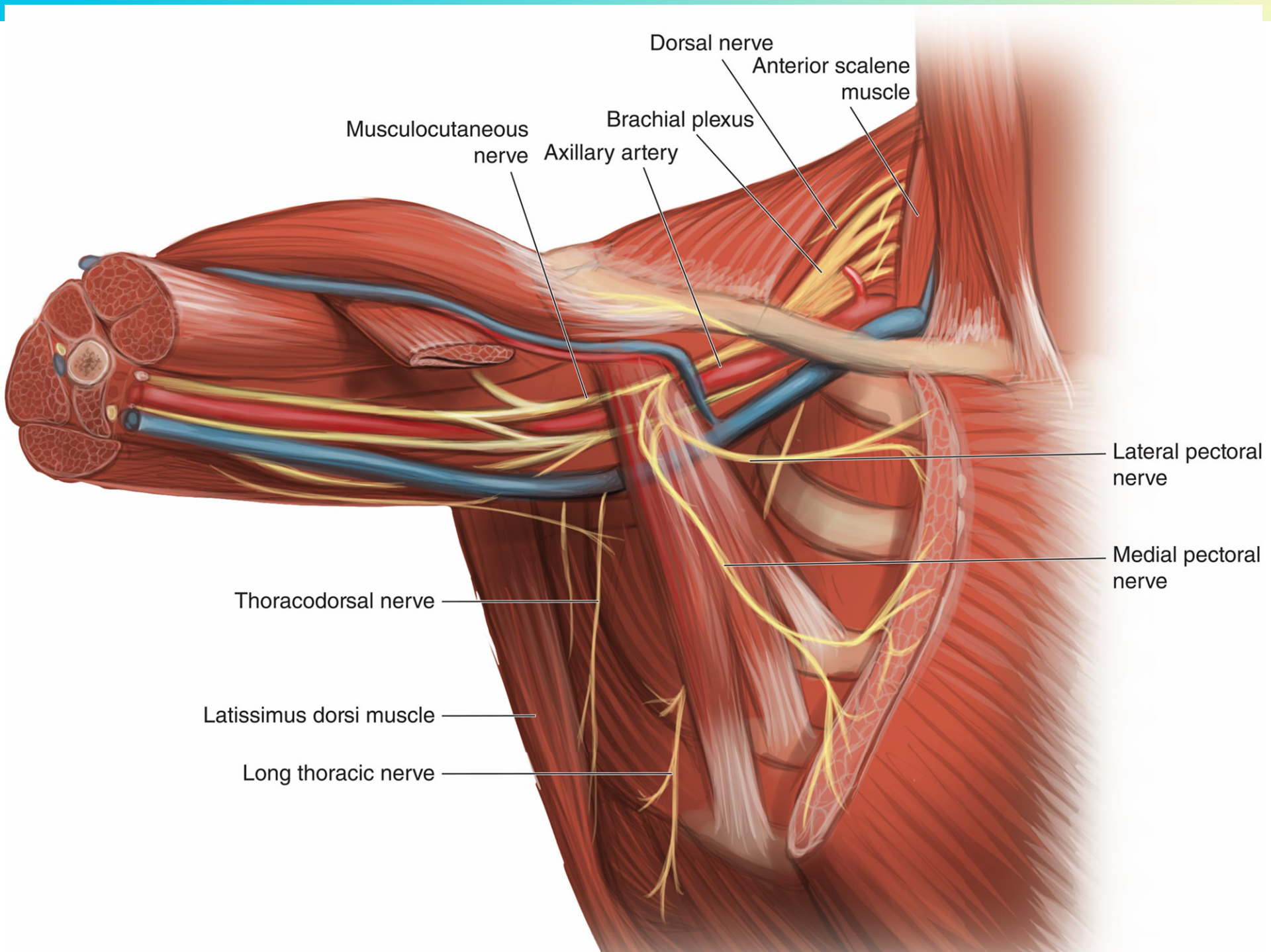
T3

T4

T5



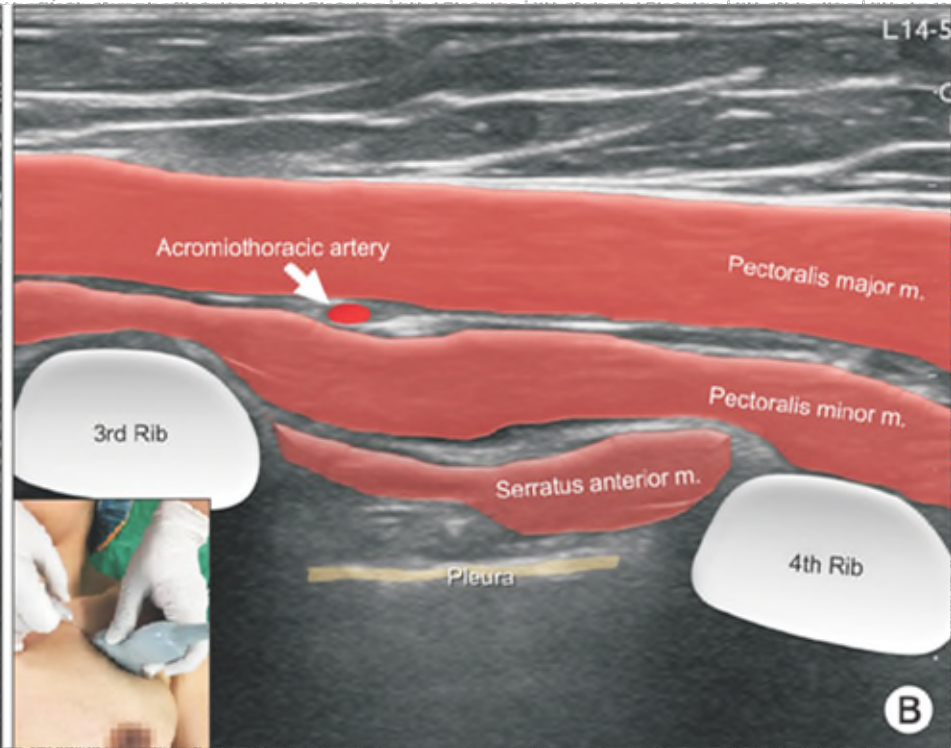
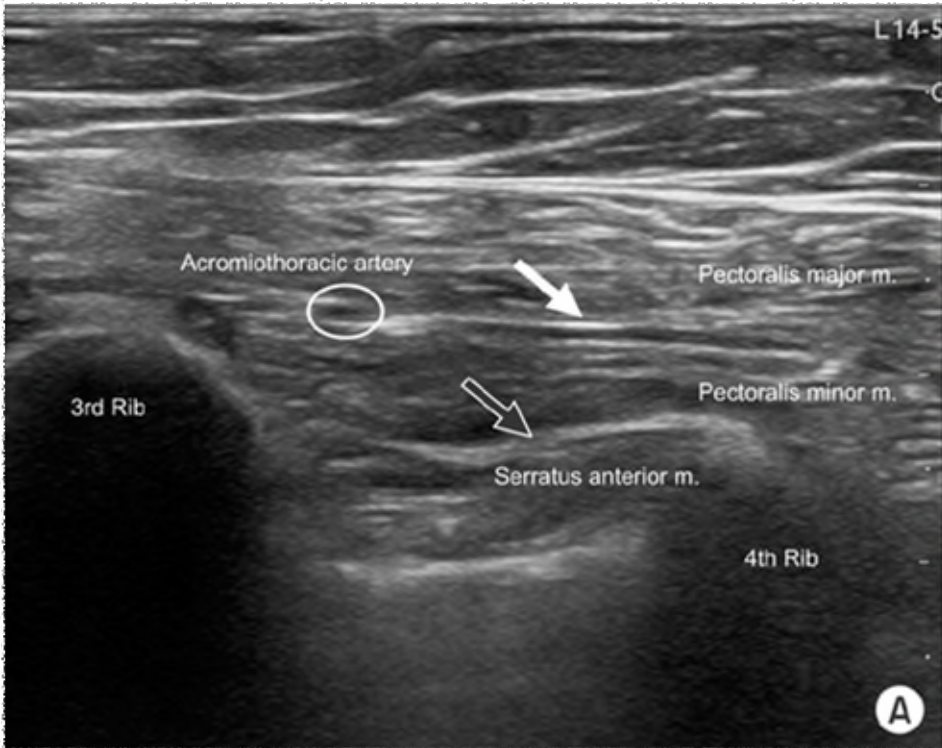




So a unilateral PEC 1 and PEC 2 block will provide analgesia for anterior-lateral aspect of the chest.

With PECS 2, the LA would spread to the axilla where the long thoracic nerve and lateral branches of the intercostal nerves are found as they exit at the level of mid axillary line





# Serratus plane block: a novel ultrasound-guided thoracic wall nerve block

R. Blanco, T. Parras, J. G. McDonnell and A. Prats-Galino

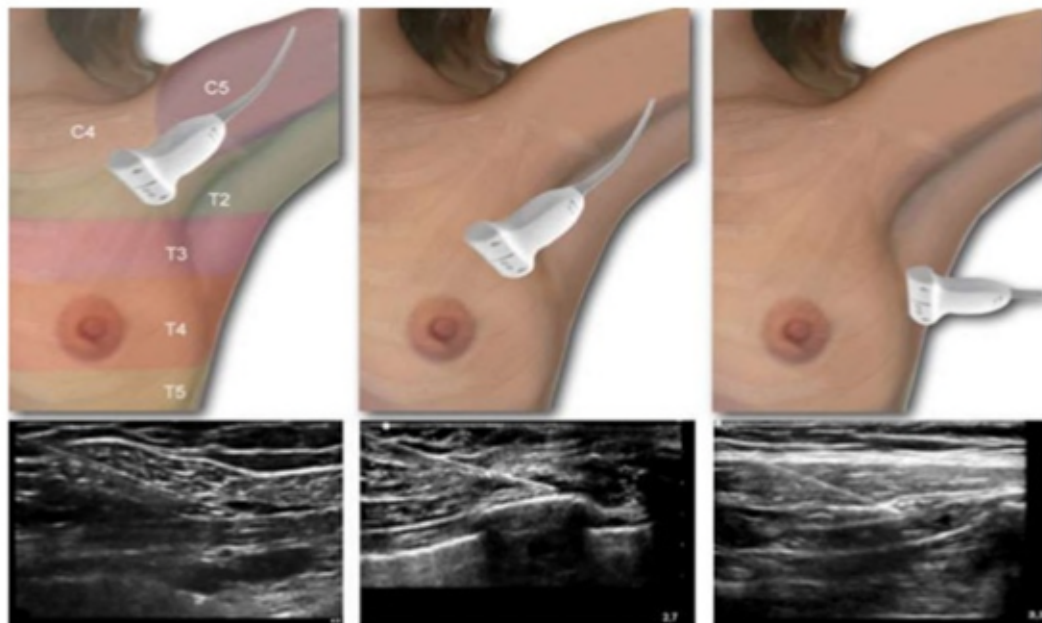
Anesthesia 2013

Blockade of lateral cutaneous branches of the thoracic intercostal nerves T2- T12

Analgesia to the antero-lateral chest wall

Progression from PEC 1 and PEC 2 blocks

Revealed 2 potential spaces, above and below the serratus anterior muscle

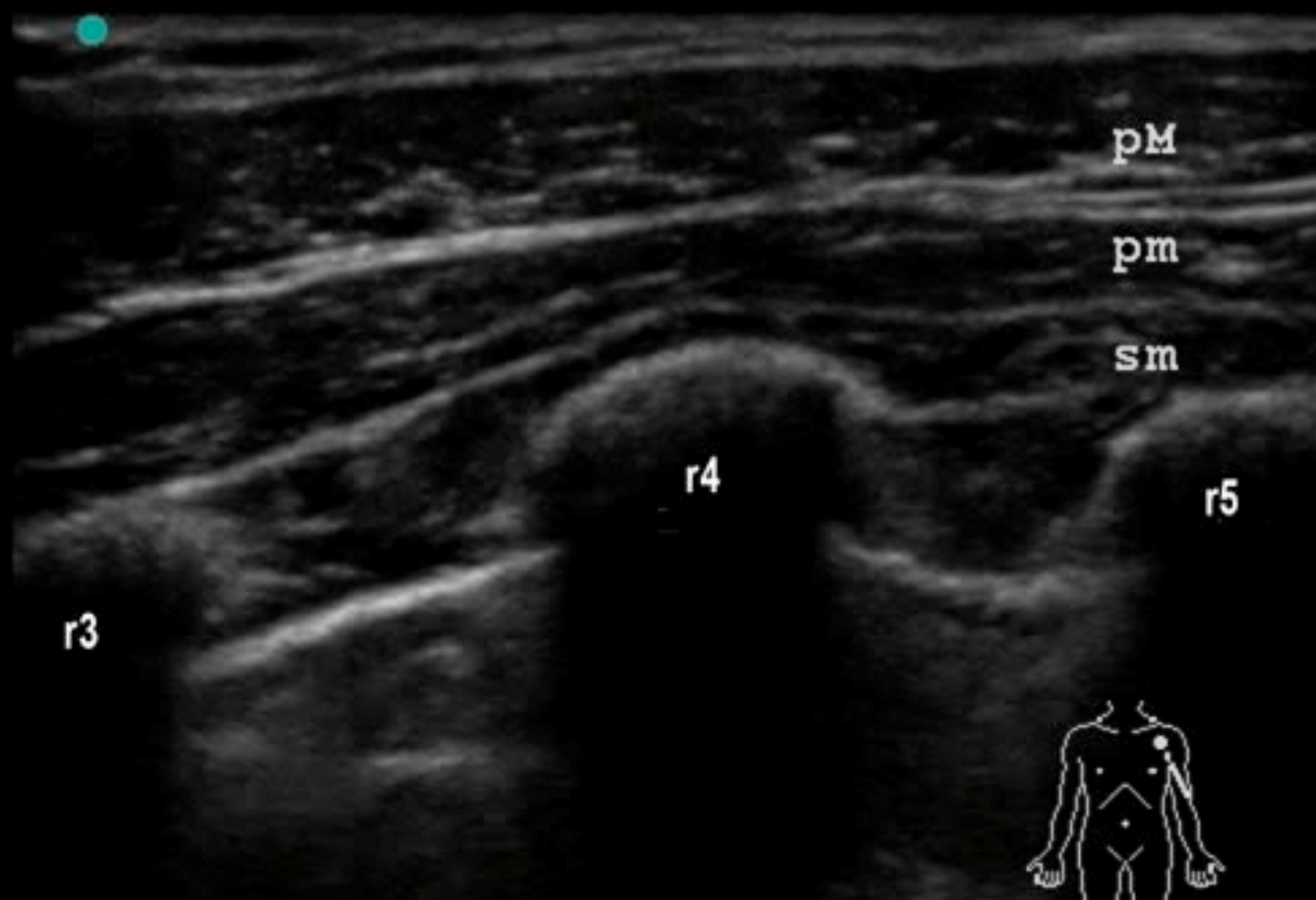


sec pecs2

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77

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Inicio

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Etiqueta...

Simbolos...

X Letras

Salir



# Conclusion

Dermatomal Paresthesia from T2 to T9

Injection of LA superficial or deep to Serratus anterior provides predictable regional anesthesia

# “A Tale of Two Planes”

## Deep Versus Superficial Serratus Plane Block for Postmastectomy Pain Syndrome

Mohammad M. Piracha, MD,\* Stephen L. Thorp, MD,\* Vinay Puttanniah, MD,† and Amitabh Gulati, MD†  
Reg Anesth Pain Med 2017

Case series

3 of them had superficial SAP without efficacy

Performed Deep SAP block

# Discussion

Improved  
and longer  
duration  
of relief

Scarring of the plane  
between the latissimus  
dorsi and SA - thickened  
fascial plane

Typically, SSPB results in  
predictable spread of  
the anterior plane as  
described by Blanco et al

However, when scar is  
present, adequate  
spread may not occur

Also spares the long  
thoracic nerve which  
would occur with SSPB

# Ultrasound-Guided Serratus Plane Block for Treatment of Postmastectomy Pain Syndromes in Breast Cancer Patients: A Case Series

[Jennifer A. Zocca MD](#) [Grant H. Chen MD](#) [Vinay G. Puttanniah MD](#) [Joseph C. Hung MD](#) [Amitabh Gulati MD](#)

*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*

*Pain Practice, 2017*

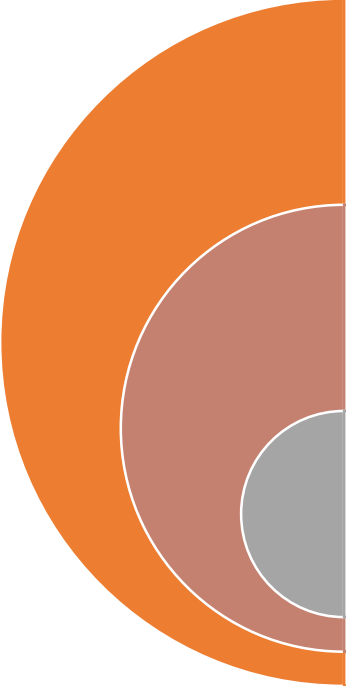
Superficial Serratus plane block

Most appropriate for anterior chest wall/breast pain

Technically challenging in patients with scarring from RT or ALND

Proposed utilizing deep serratus plane block in these subset of patients

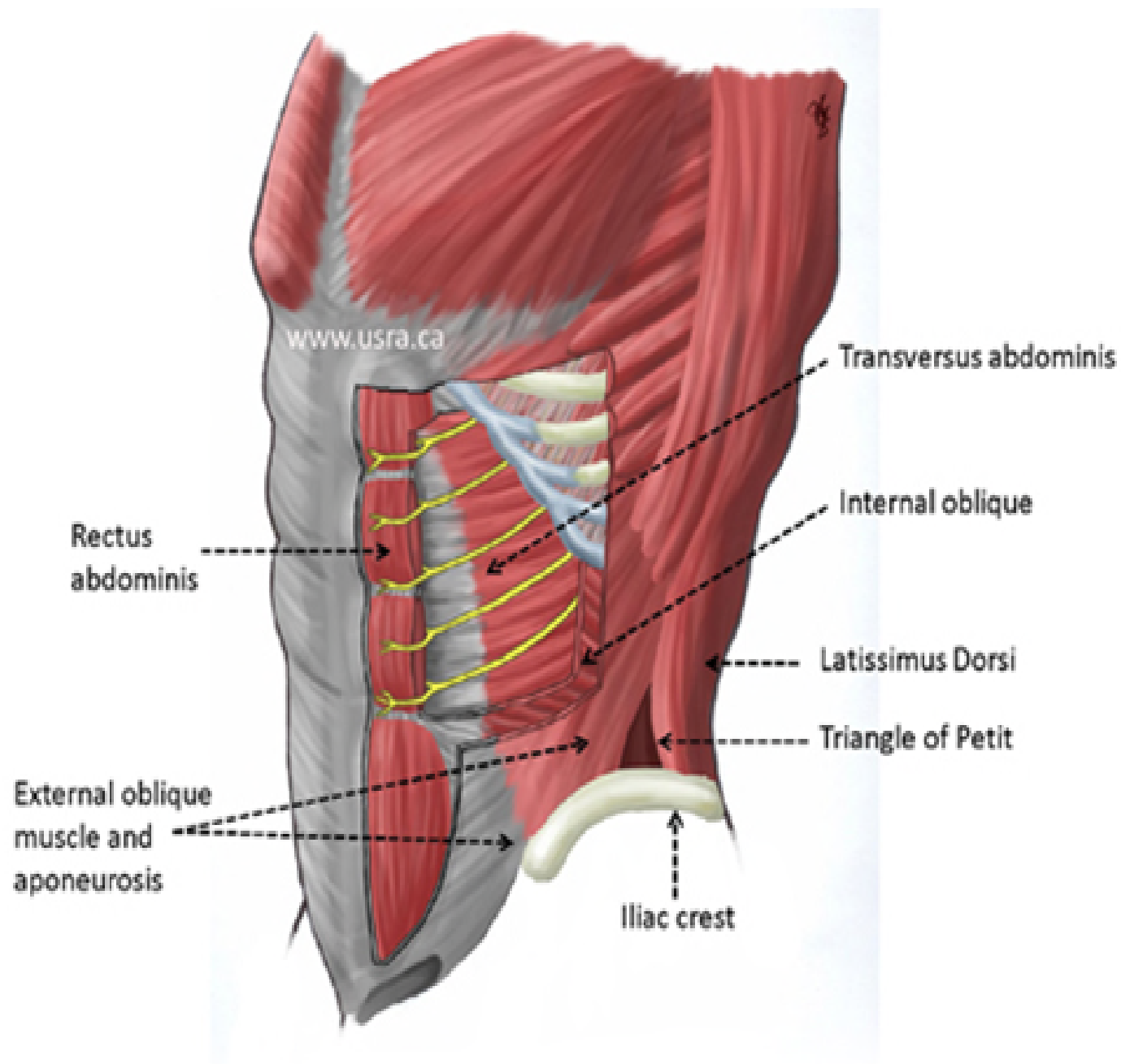
# Trasversus Abdominis Plane (TAP) Block



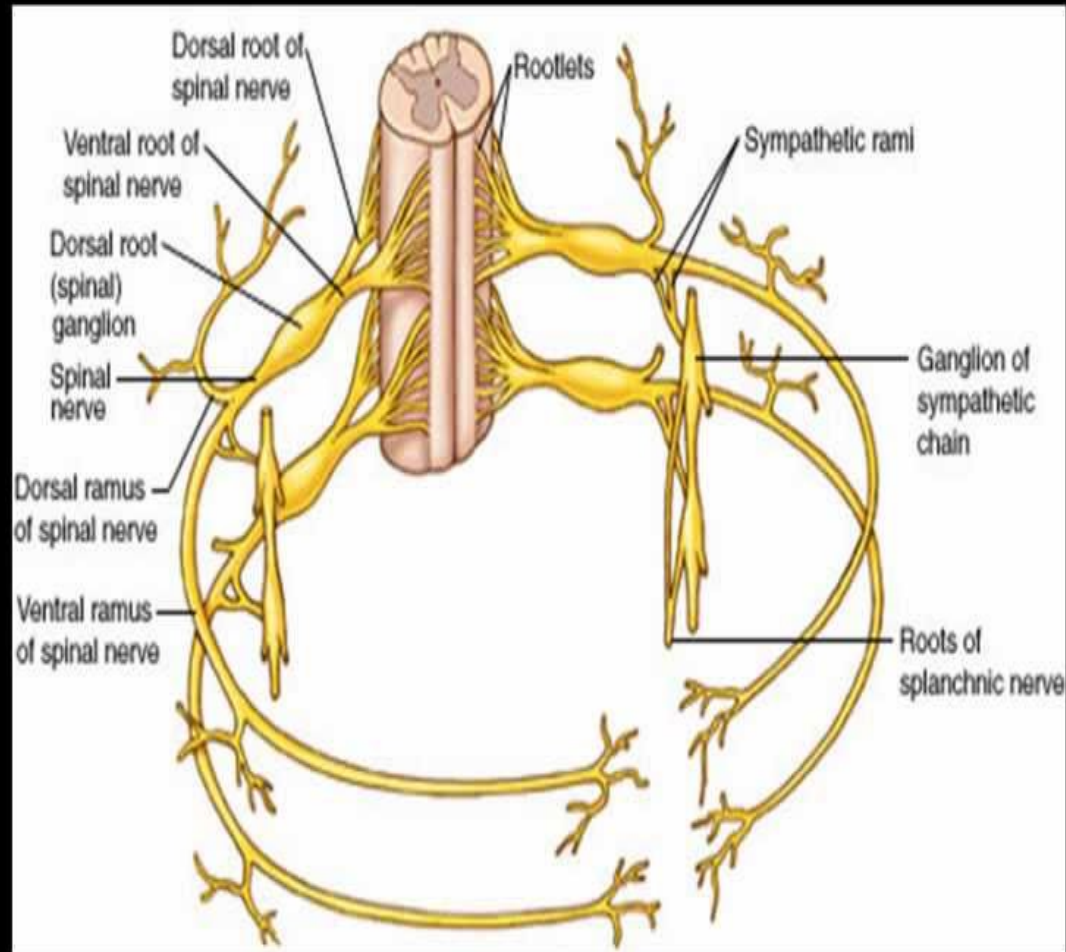
Described in 2001 by Rafi

Fascial layer between the internal oblique and Transversus abdominis muscle, below which run the neurovascular bundles supplying the abdominal wall

Consistent course of Intercostal, Subcostal and Iliohypogastric nerves in the TAP plane.



# Segmental spinal nerves



# Transversus abdominis plane block

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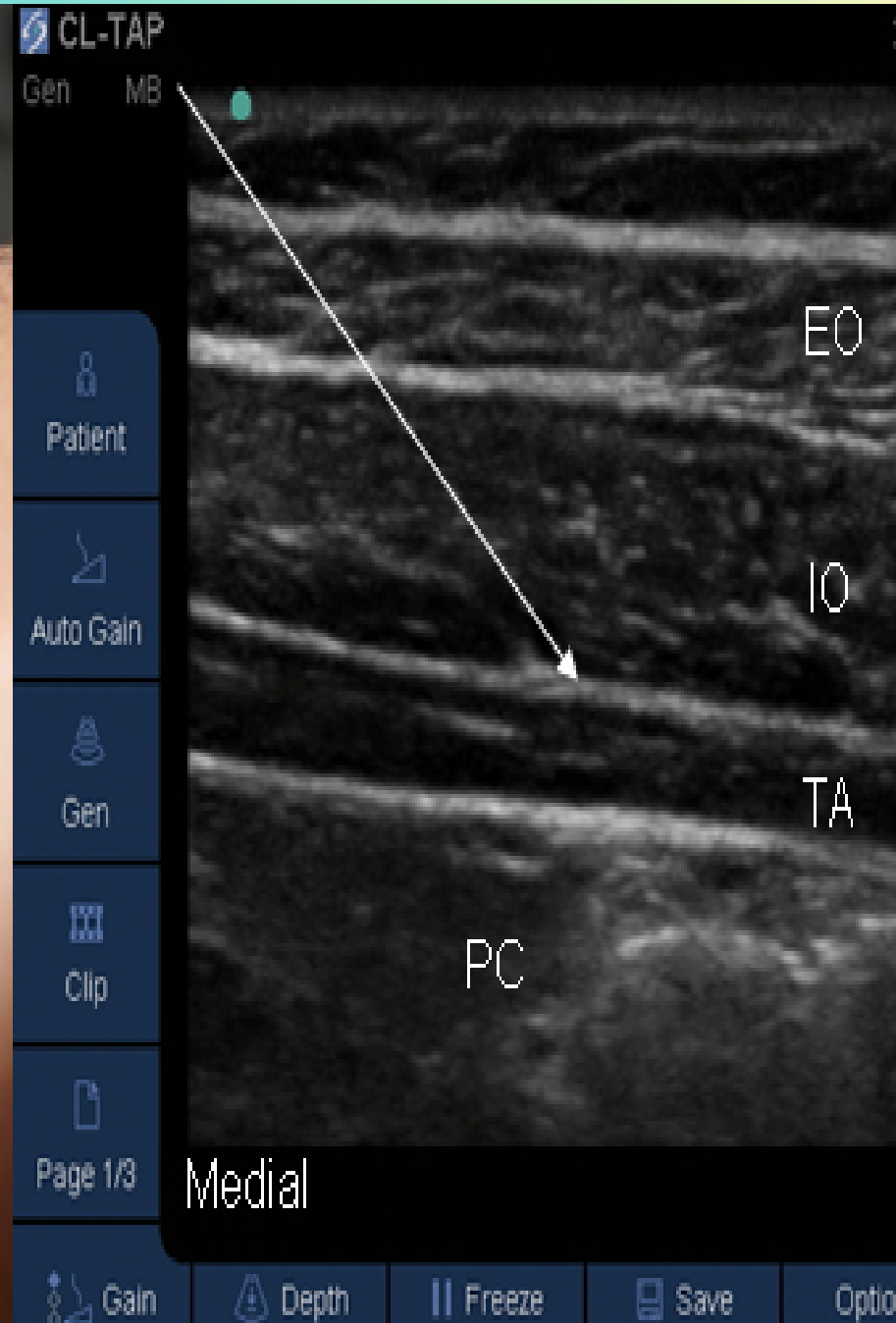
*Olivia Finnerty<sup>a,b</sup> and John G. McDonnell<sup>a,b,c</sup>*

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Original approach described the needle insertion via the lumbar Triangle of Petit, using double pop or LOR technique resulting in the needle tip placement within the TAP

Triangle of petit is posterior to mid axillary line, so it successfully blocked the somatic nerves supplying the anterior abdominal wall.





# Anatomy

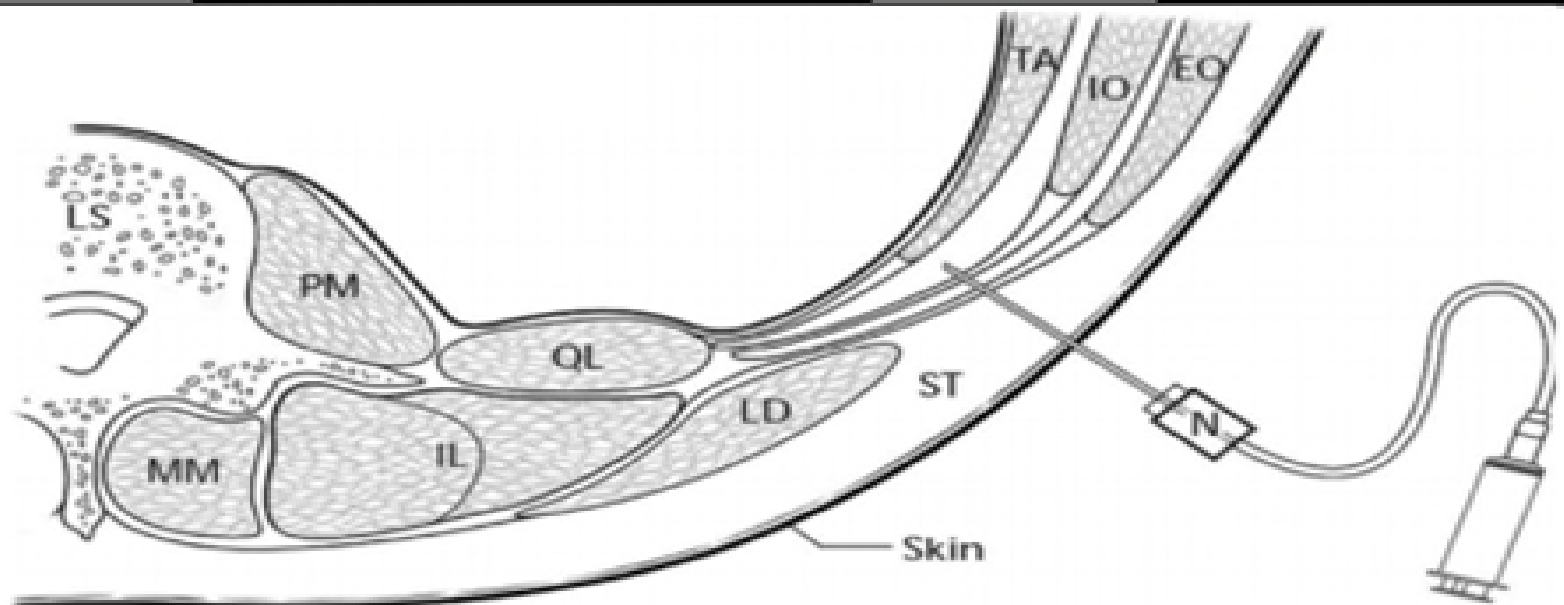
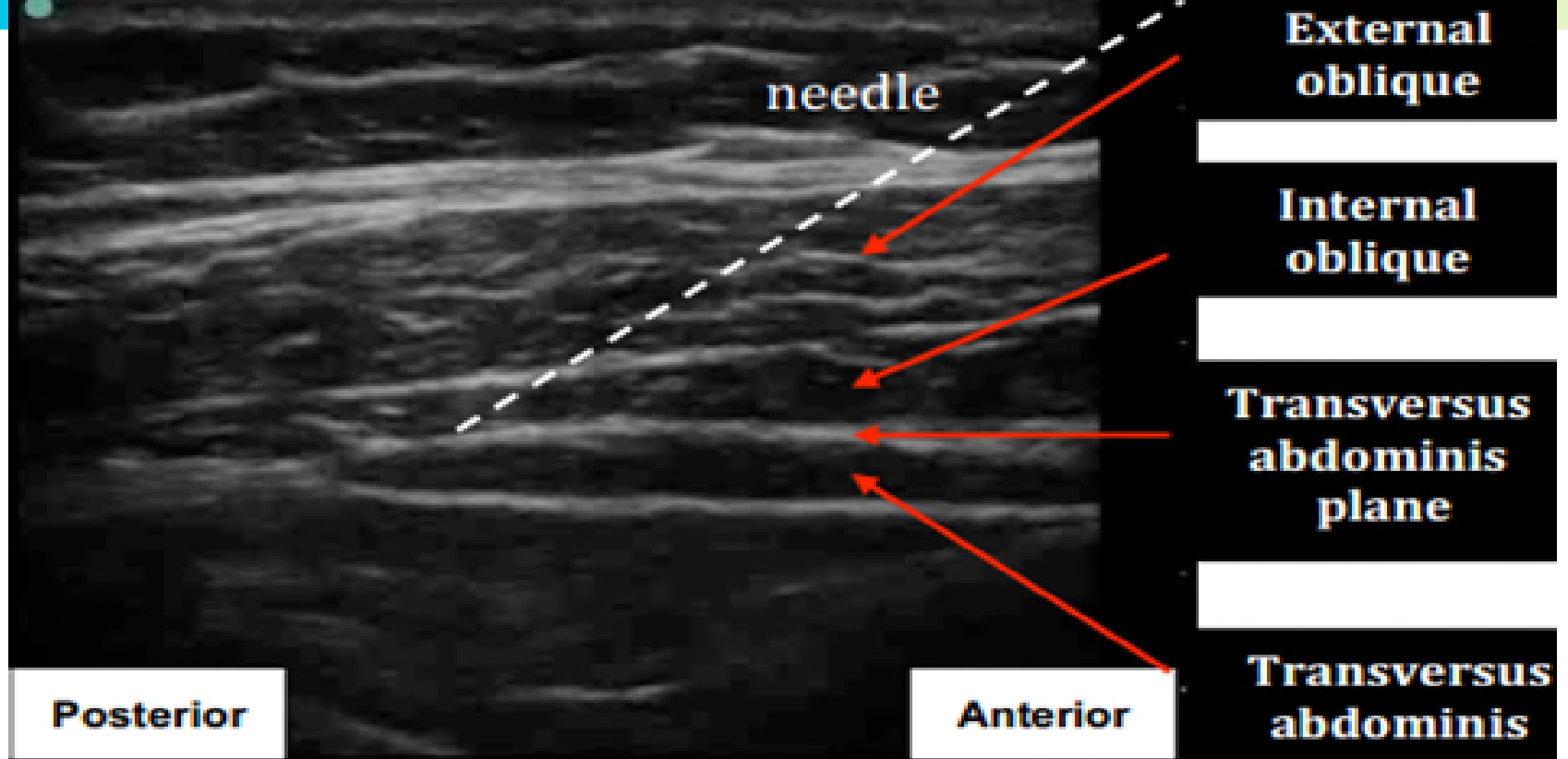
Initial concept of TAP block was that this was a FIELD BLOCK or a RAFI ( Regional abdominal field infiltration ) block



Belief was that the analgesic profile was obtained by blockade of nerves lying within the TAP plane by the spread of LA within it



Various studies showed **CONSISTENT** spread of contrast from iliac crest to the costal margin on CT imaging and serial MRIs over 4 hours





Patient



Auto Gain



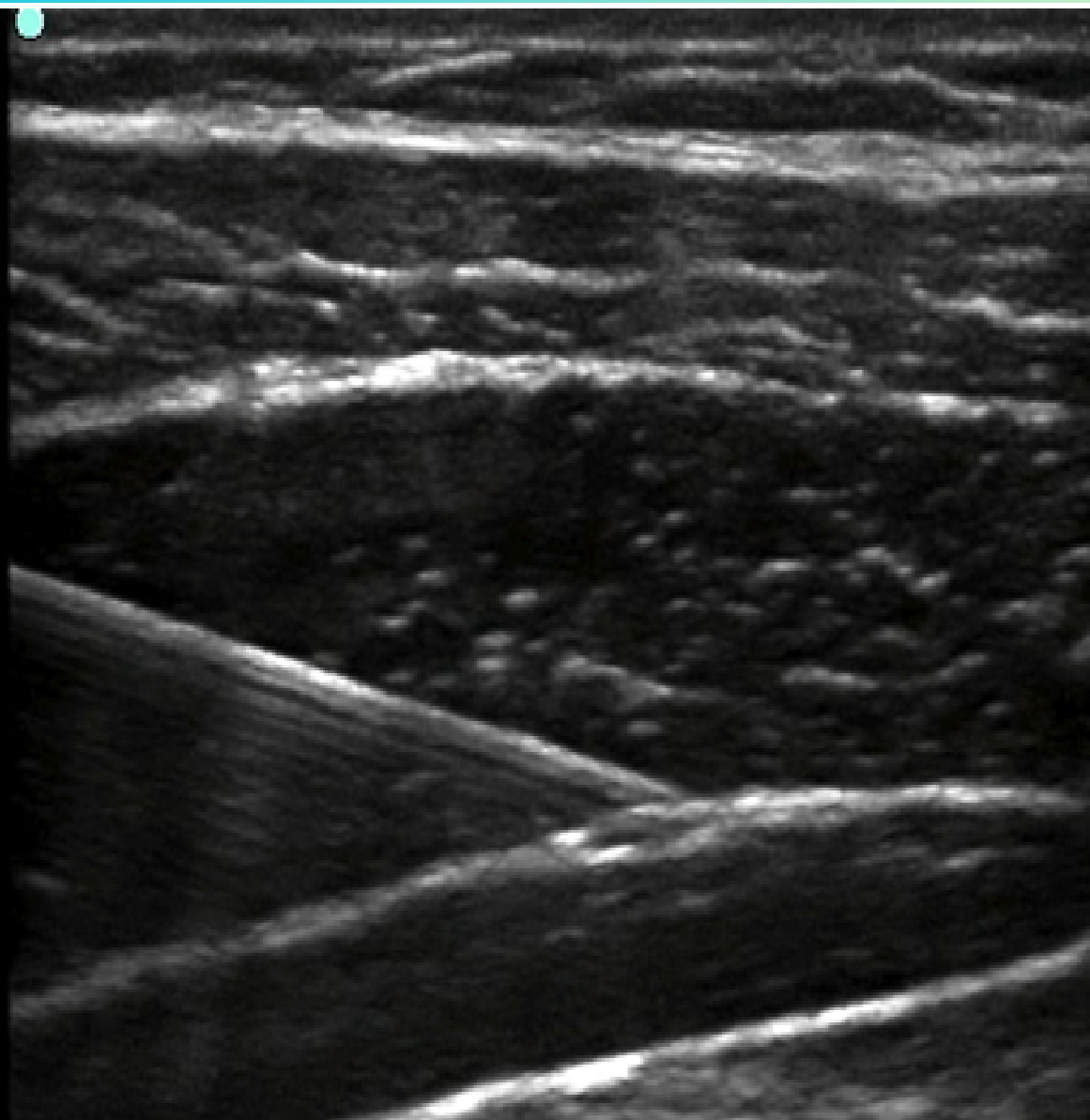
Res



Clip



Page 1/3





EO

IO

TA

Local anesthetic  
splitting transversus

## Different approaches

Tran et al, USG guided TAP blocks, they found the dye spread between the iliac crest, costal margin and rectus muscle with an average area of 45 cm<sup>2</sup> and involved the nerves T11 to L1

Barrington et al, USG guided insertion of dye at the subcostal TAP region in cadavers. On dissection, involved more nerves T8-11 and had larger area of spread 90 cm<sup>2</sup>

# Visceral Cancer Pain

Celiac Plexus Block

Ganglion Impar block

Lumbar Sympathetic  
Block

Superior Hypogastric  
Plexus Block

Stellate Ganglion Block

# Celiac Plexus Block- An old technique with New Developments

Celiac plexus is the largest visceral plexus

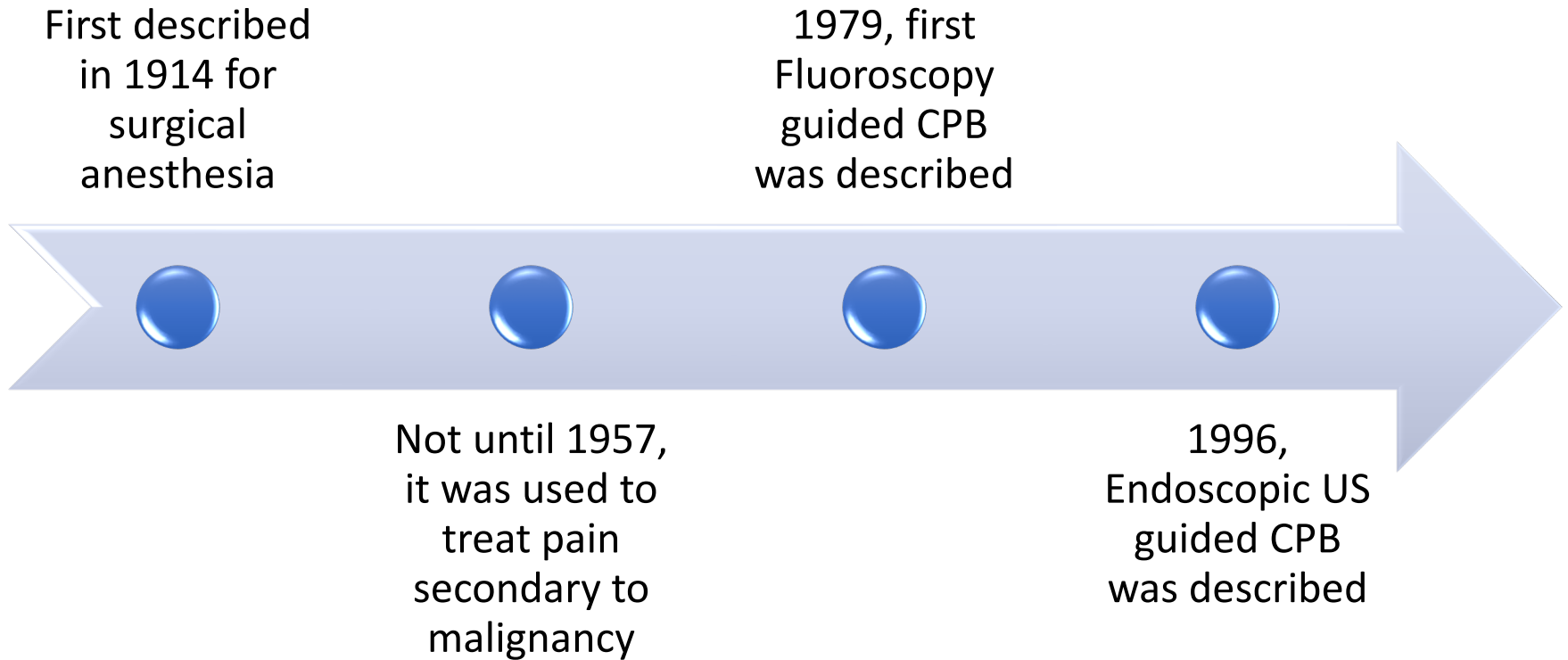
Celiac plexus relays pain signals from upper abdominal organs to the CNS

Position varies from T12-L2 disc space

Lies in the retroperitoneum and anterolateral to the abdominal aorta



# history



# Modern day practice



Percutaneous CPB



Endoscopic US guided



Intraoperative

# Review

Partial to complete pain relief in approx. 90% of patients at 3 months and 70% until death beyond 3 months.

Reduces healthcare costs

Most common side effect after neurolysis-transient local pain

Rare- kidney puncture, peritonitis, pneumothorax, retroperitoneal hematoma ( image guidance has reduced the risk of improper needle placement)

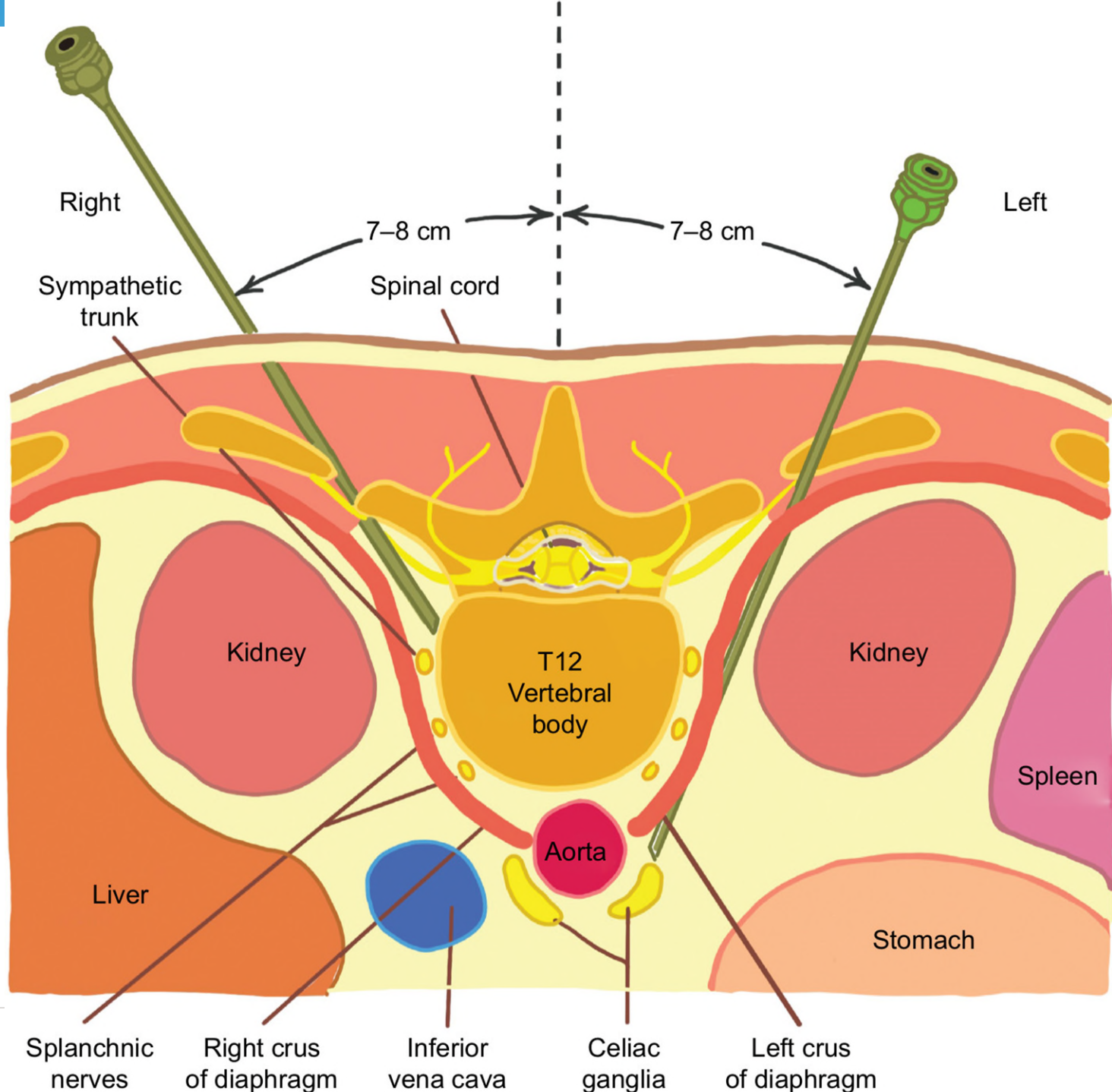
Celiac trunk thrombosis, celiac artery vasospasm-bowel infarction

Diarrhea and hypotension from unopposed PNS after sympathetic block

# What we Know

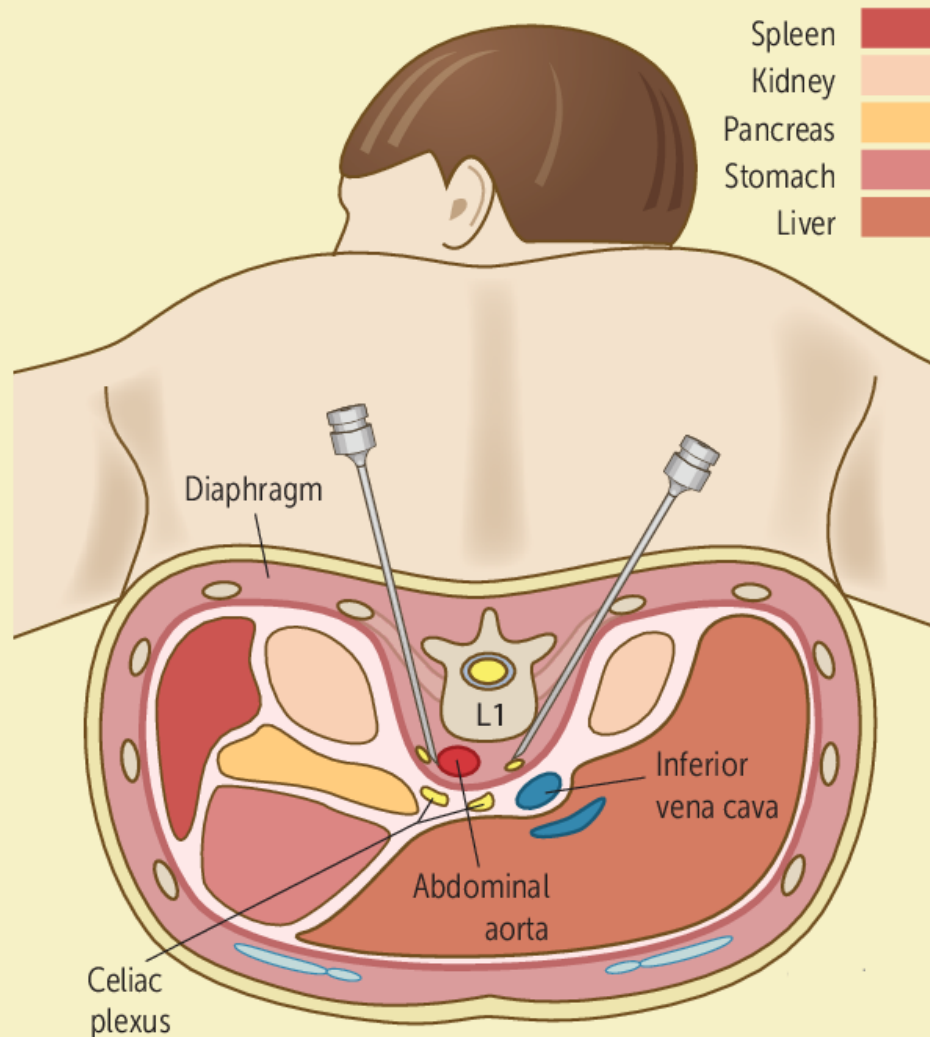
CPB is an efficacious modality of pain relief for Head of Pancreas related malignancy

Efficacy on opioid sparing and level of pain relief is maximum when given early in the disease trajectory



**FIGURE 1.**

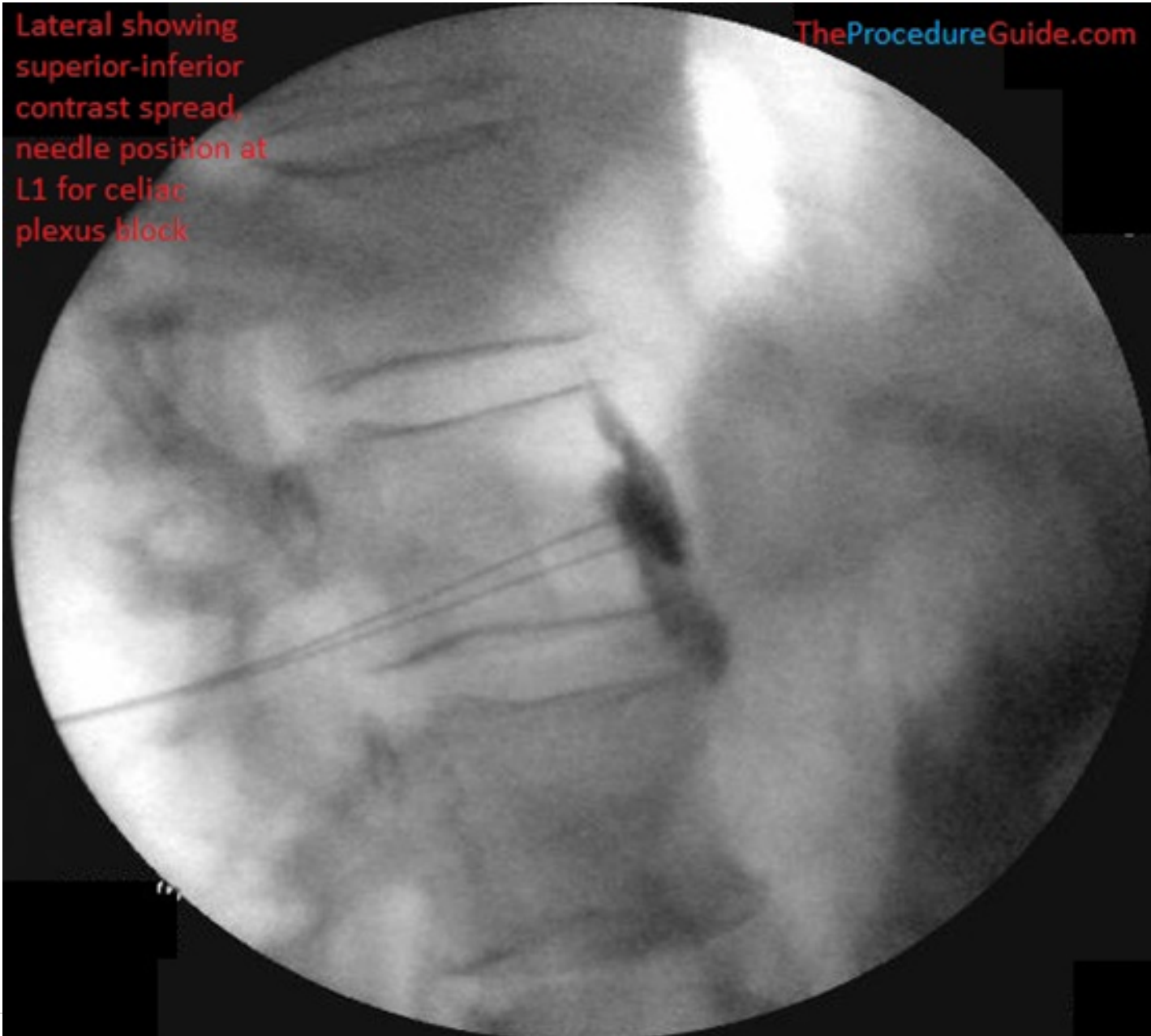
## PERCUTANEOUS-GUIDED CELIAC PLEXUS BLOCK

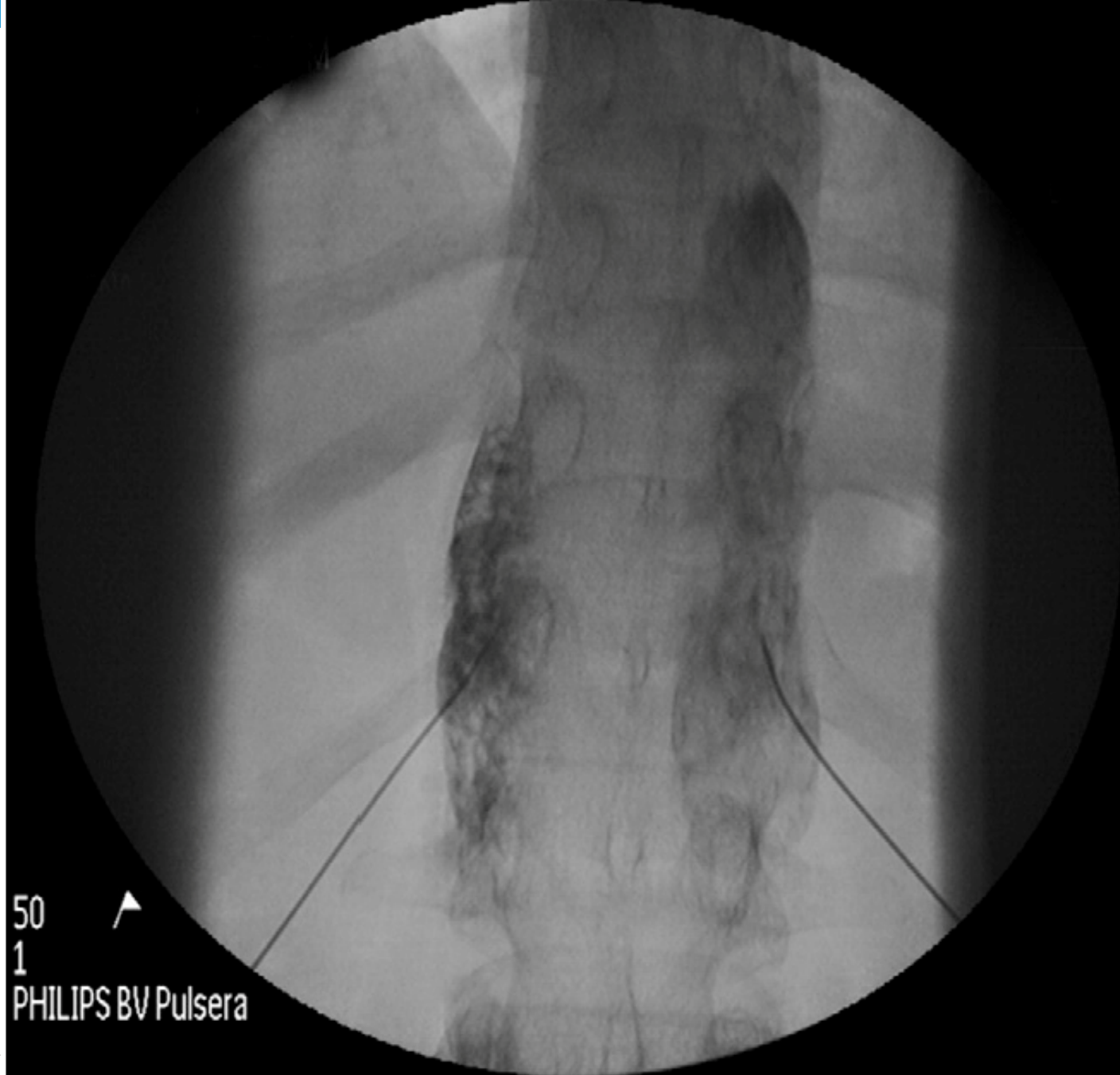


**Note.** Image courtesy of Oncorex. Used with permission.

Lateral showing  
superior-inferior  
contrast spread,  
needle position at  
L1 for celiac  
plexus block

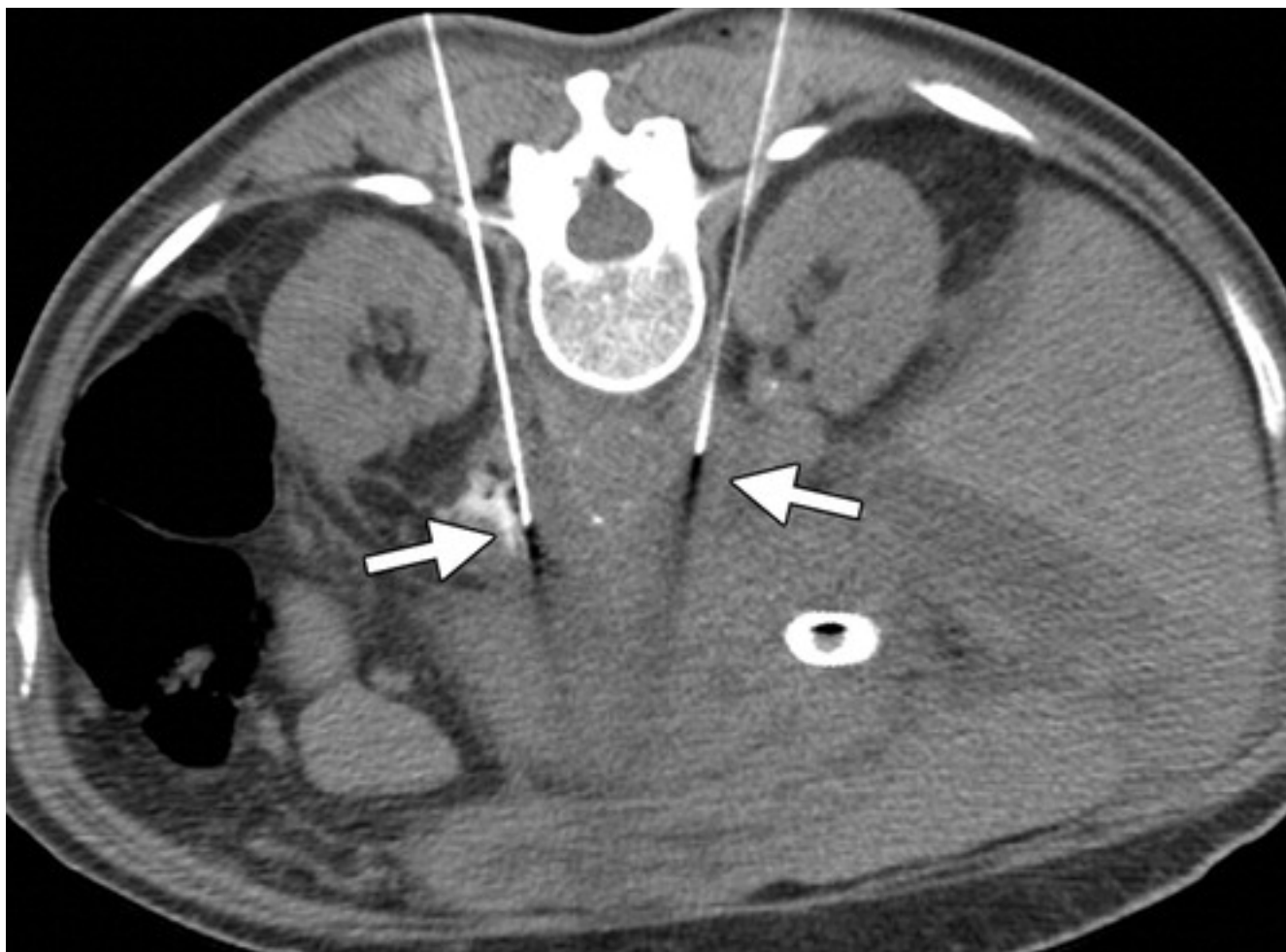
TheProcedureGuide.com



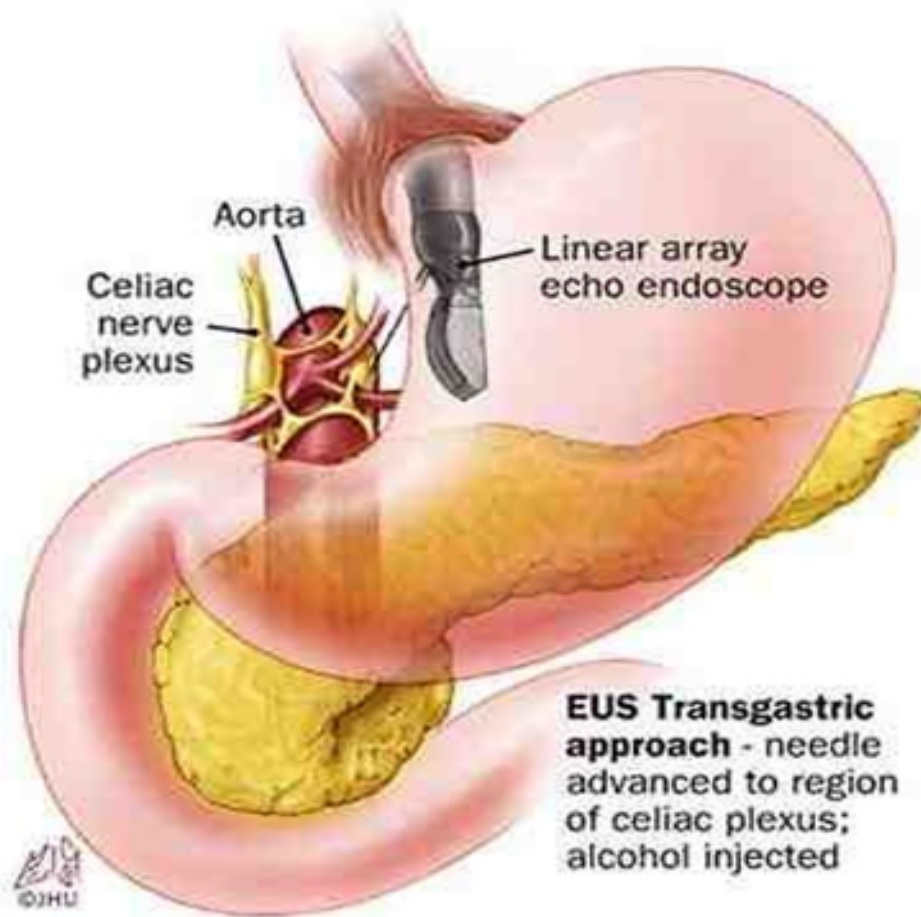


<sup>c</sup> **Fig 2** Anteroposterior fluoroscopic view of final bilateral needle



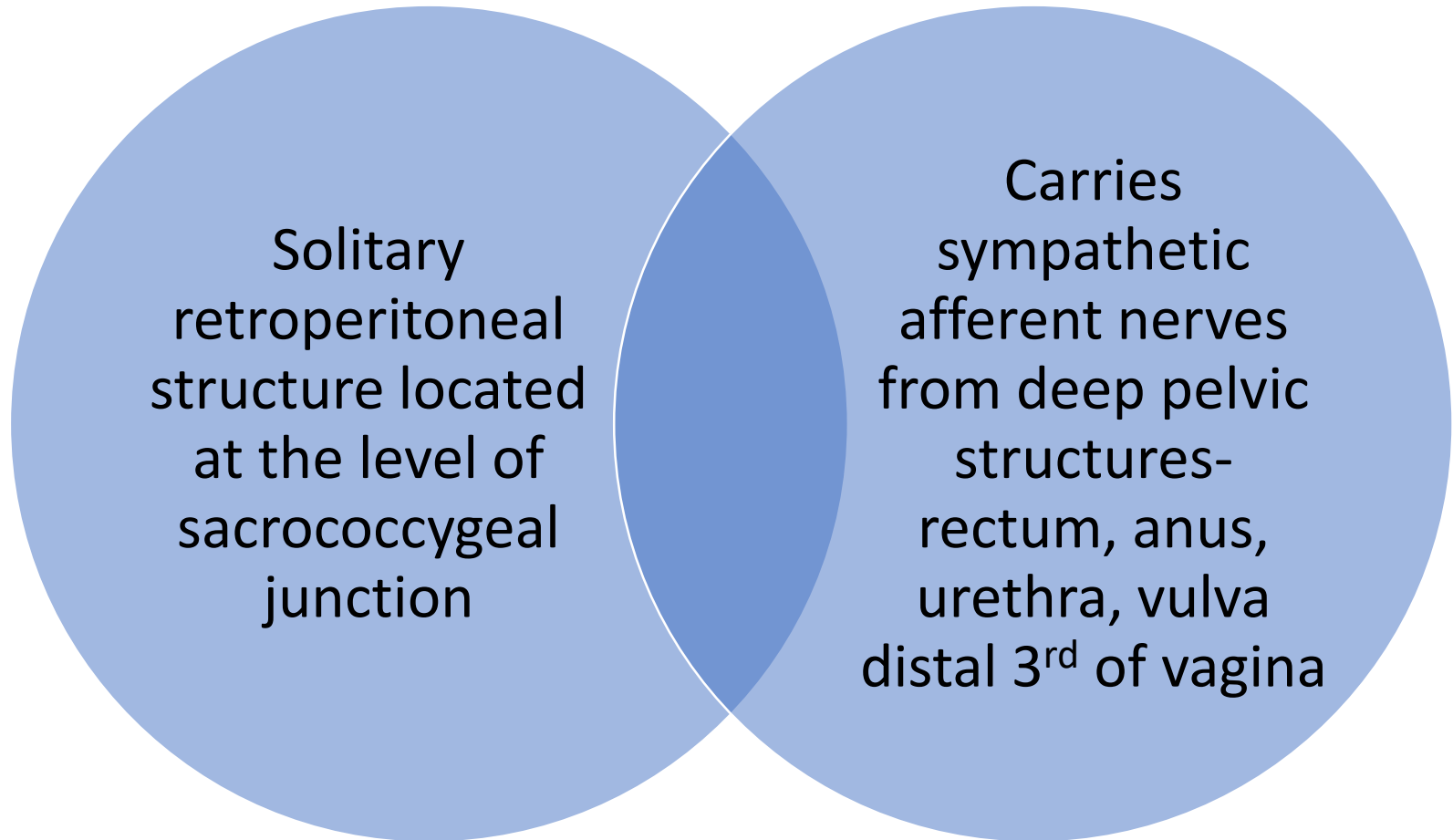


# EUS Trans gastric approach



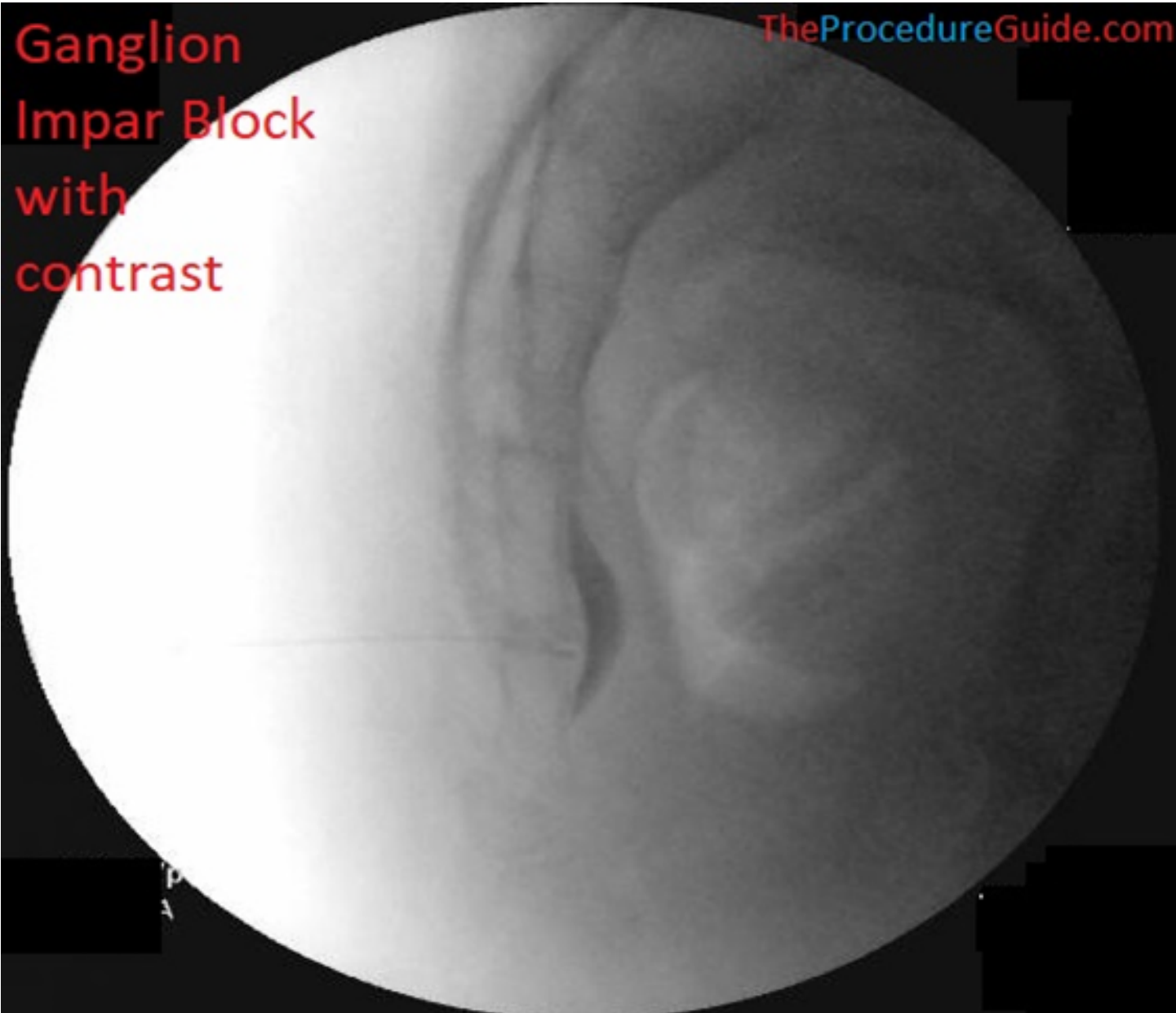
**Figure 25C - Transgastric celiac plexus nerve block**

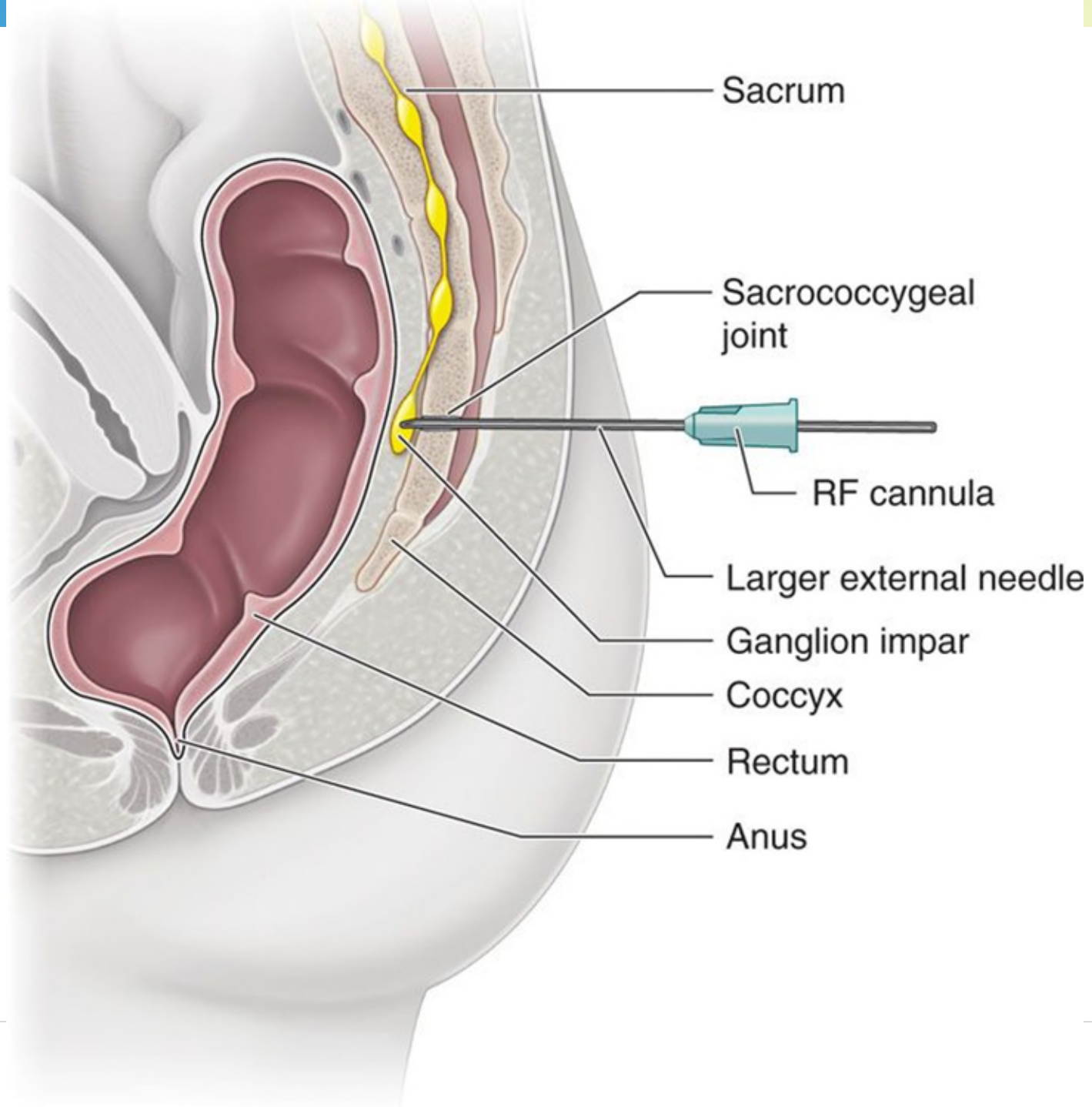
# Ganglion impar block



Ganglion  
Impar Block  
with  
contrast

TheProcedureGuide.com







CITY OF HOPE NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER



# Intrathecal Drug Delivery - IDD

Targeted and continuous drug infusion directly into the intrathecal space, thus bypassing BBB

Since the drug is in the vicinity of the action site, much lower dose is required

Consequently, opioid serum levels are minimal

Patients with IDD have fewer inpatient visits, inpatient days and ED visits compared to patients on CMM

1st documented injection into CSF was in 1898.



```
graph TD; A[1st documented injection into CSF was in 1898.] --> B[Wasn't until 1973 that opioid receptors were discovered on the spinal cord]; B --> C[1979, 1st successful injection of Morphine in the spinal canal for refractory cancer pain]; C --> D[Absence of respiratory depression, sedation]; D --> E[1981, 1st Intrathecal drug delivery device was introduced into clinical use];
```

Wasn't until 1973 that opioid receptors were discovered on the spinal cord

1979, 1st successful injection of Morphine in the spinal canal for refractory cancer pain

Absence of respiratory depression, sedation

1981, 1st Intrathecal drug delivery device was introduced into clinical use



FDA approved

Implanted programmable intrathecal pump ( Medtronic)

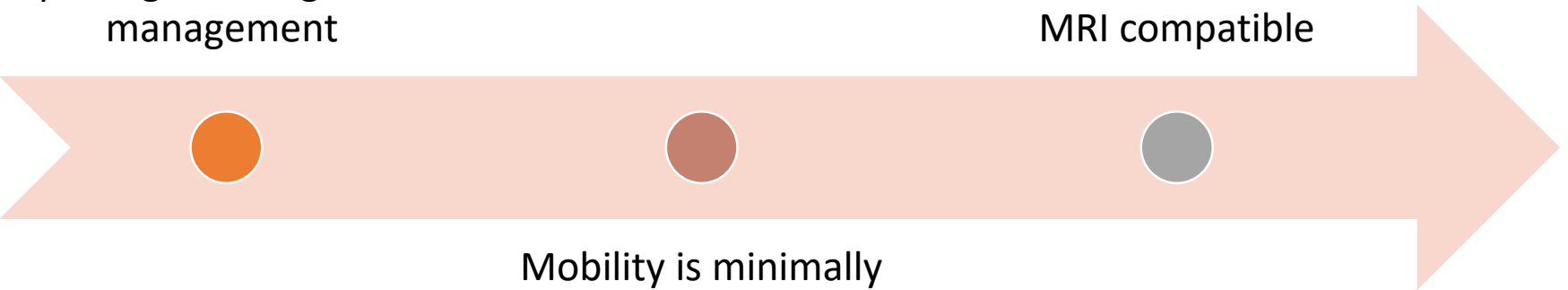
Implanted programmable intrathecal pump ( Flowonix)

- Differ in the volume of the reservoir
- Programmable characteristics

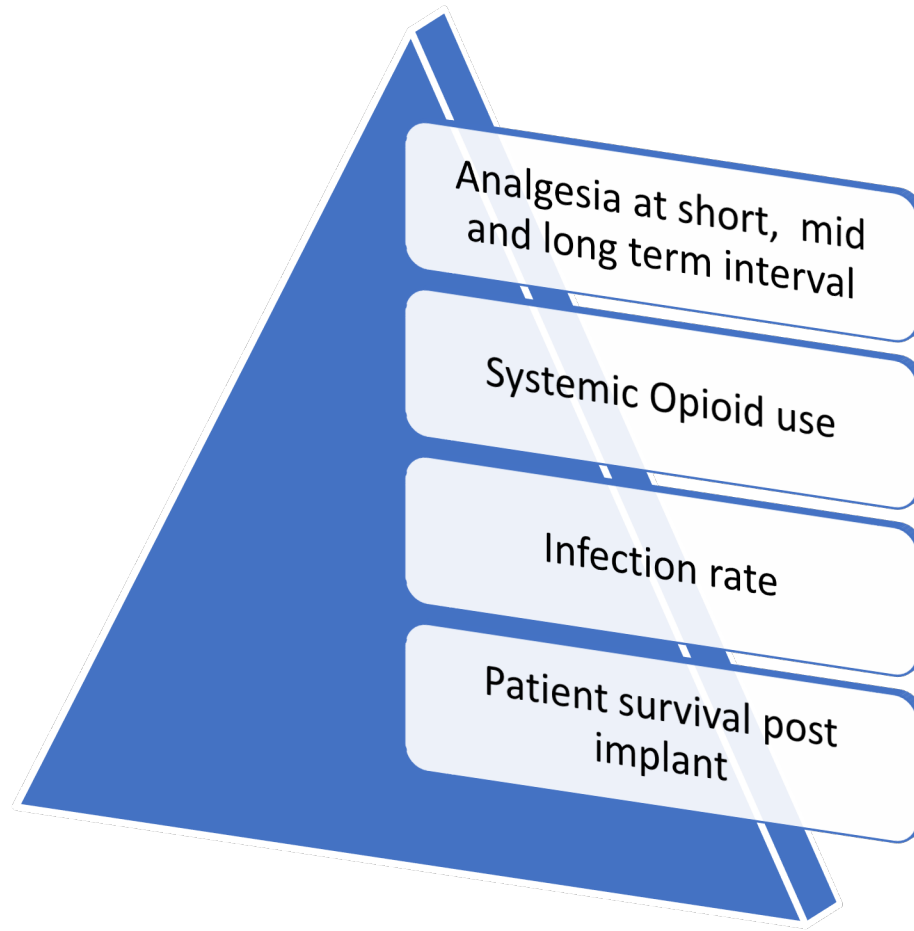
Implanted pumps have  
decreased exposure to  
pathogens- long term  
management

MRI compatible

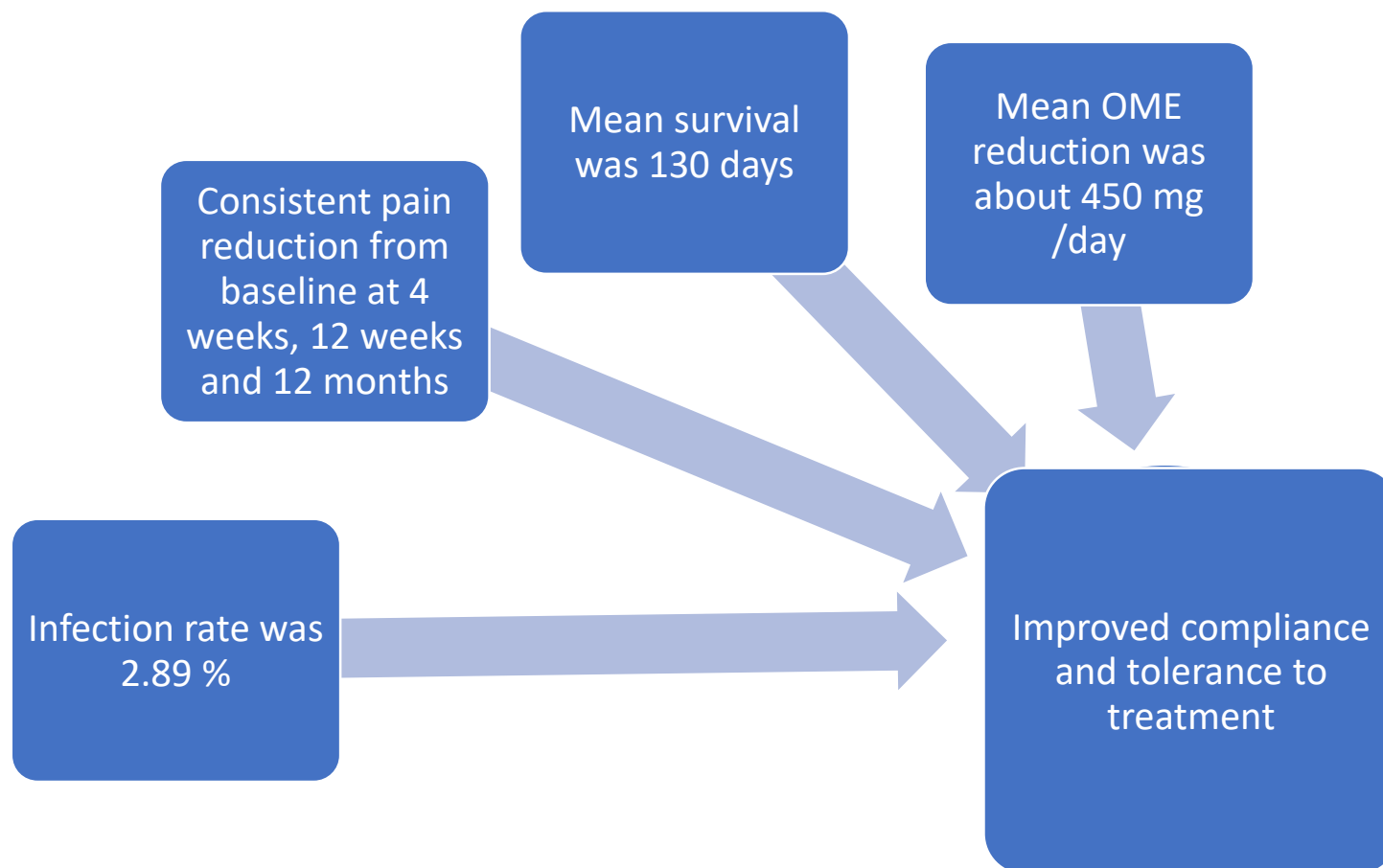
Mobility is minimally  
affected



# Meta-analysis

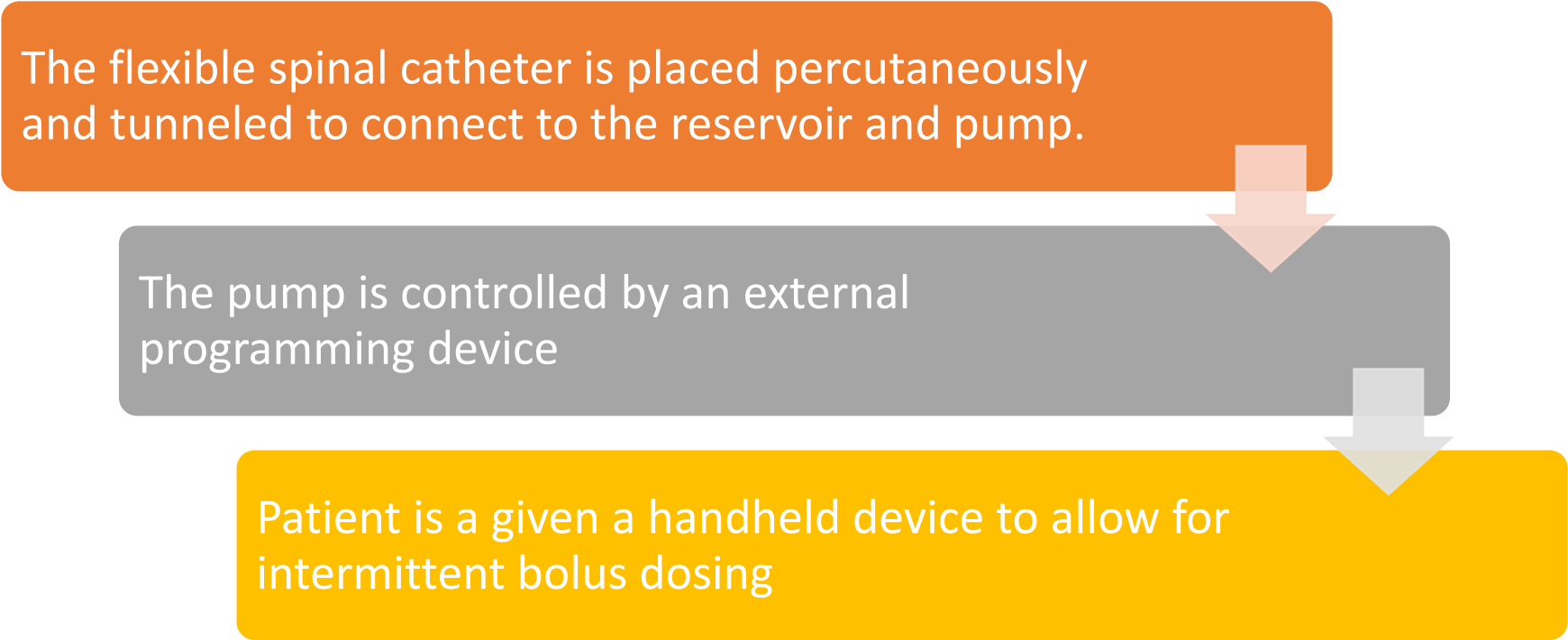


# Results



# IDD

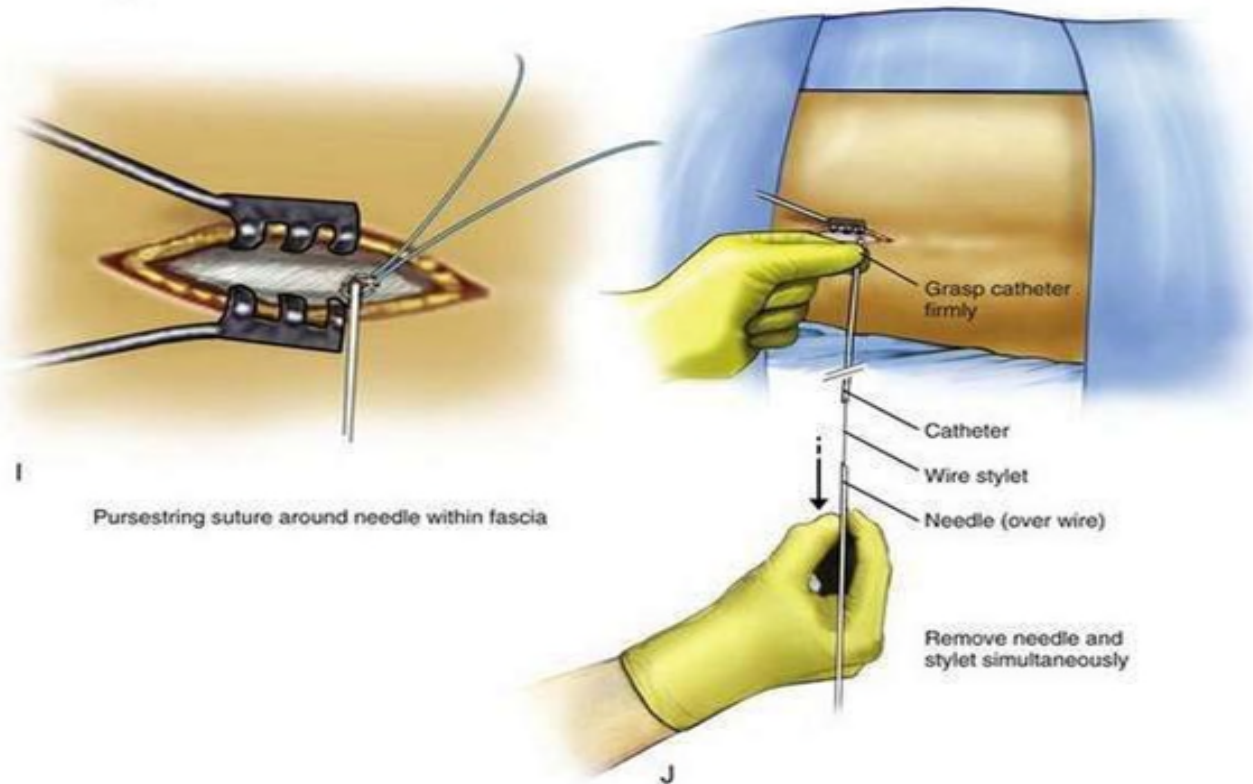
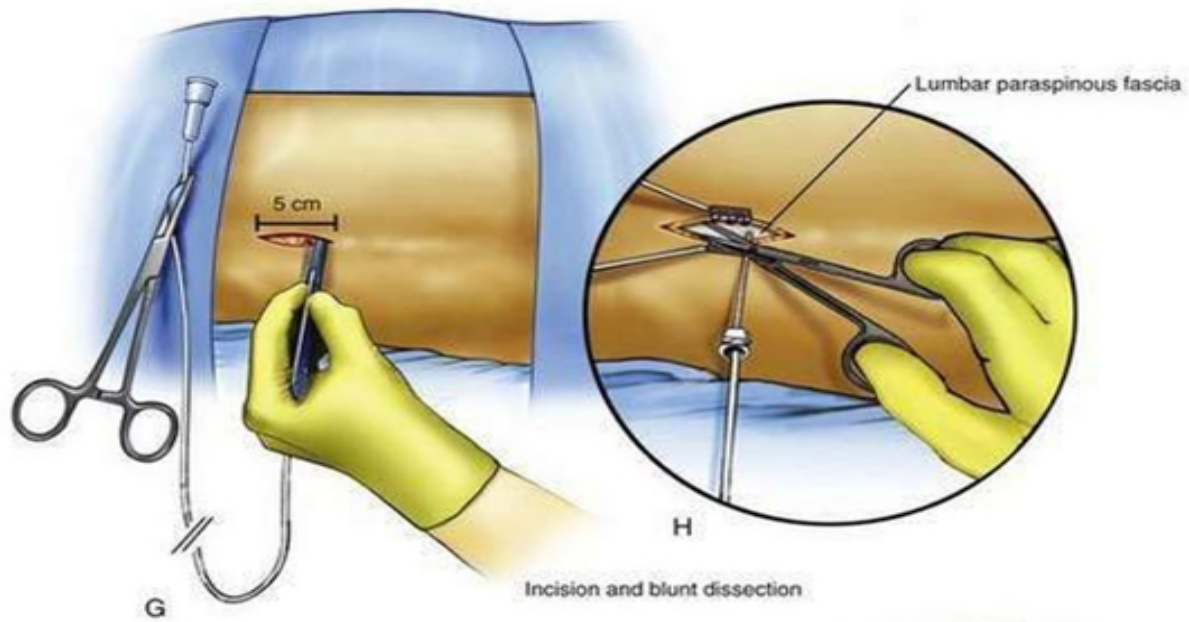
The flexible spinal catheter is placed percutaneously and tunneled to connect to the reservoir and pump.

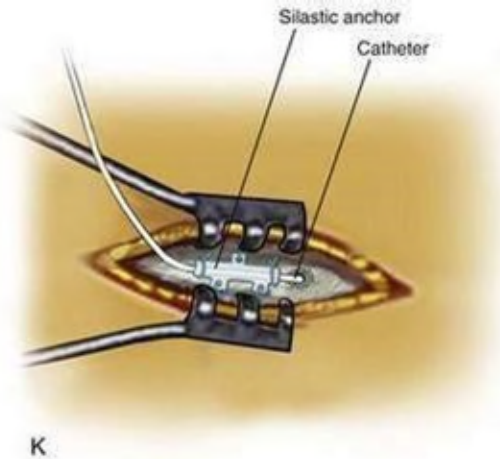


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graph TD; A[The flexible spinal catheter is placed percutaneously and tunneled to connect to the reservoir and pump.] --> B[The pump is controlled by an external programming device]; B --> C[Patient is given a handheld device to allow for intermittent bolus dosing];
```

The pump is controlled by an external programming device

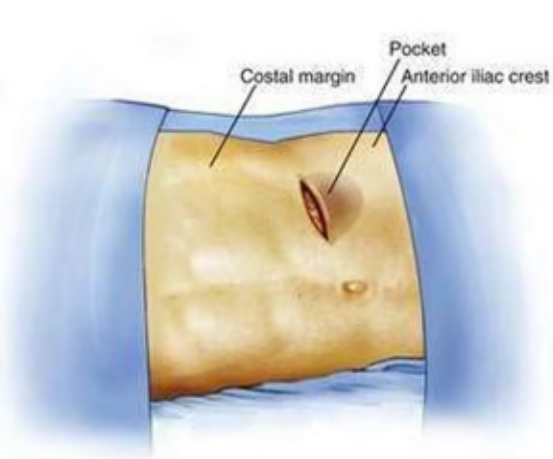
Patient is given a handheld device to allow for intermittent bolus dosing





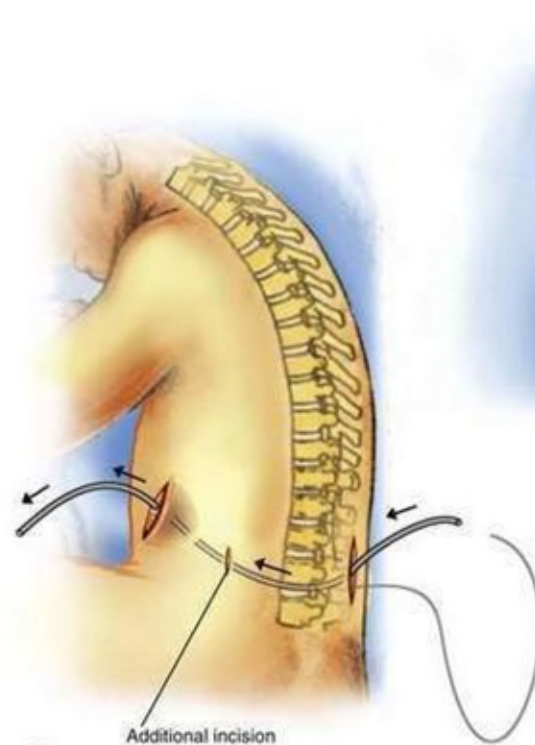
K

Secure catheter with Silastic anchor and sutures



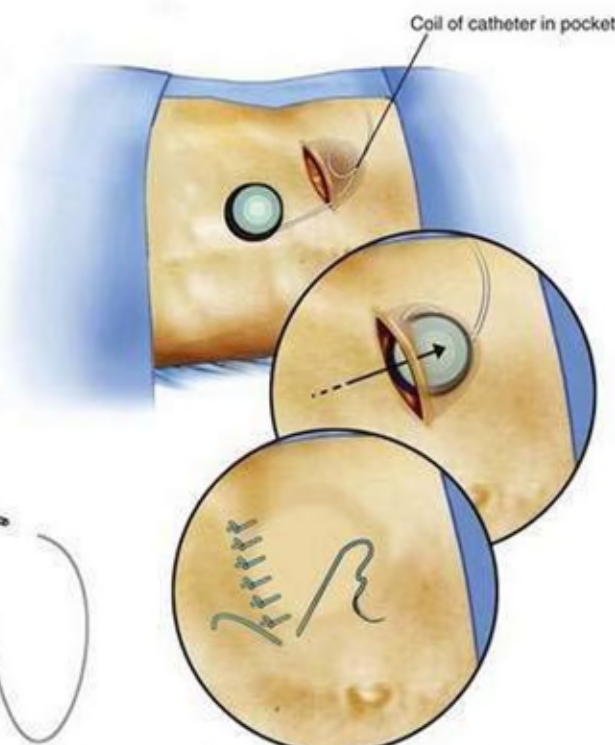
L

Create pocket for pump



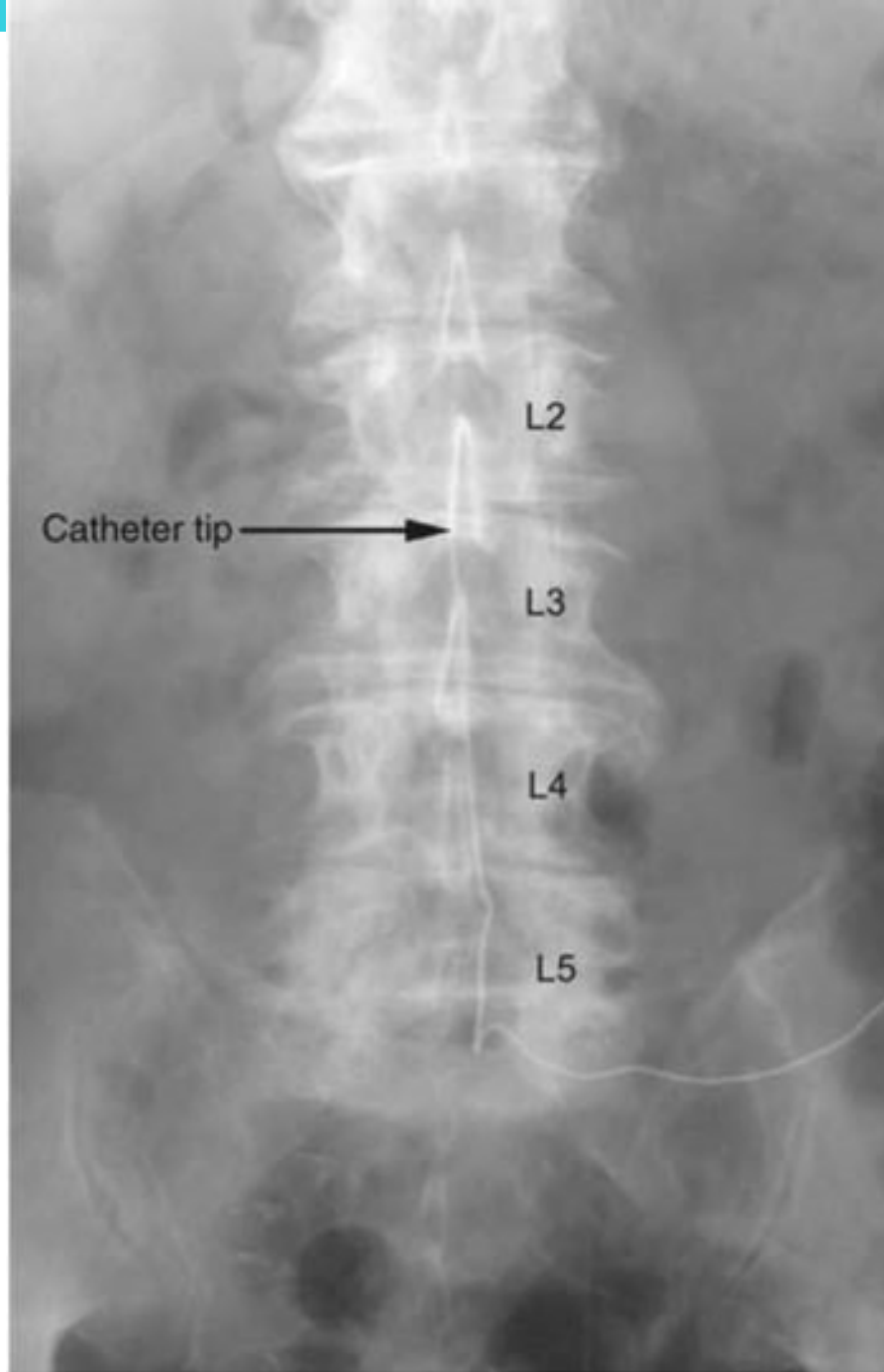
M

Extend tunneling device through subcutaneous tissues and then tunnel catheter through device

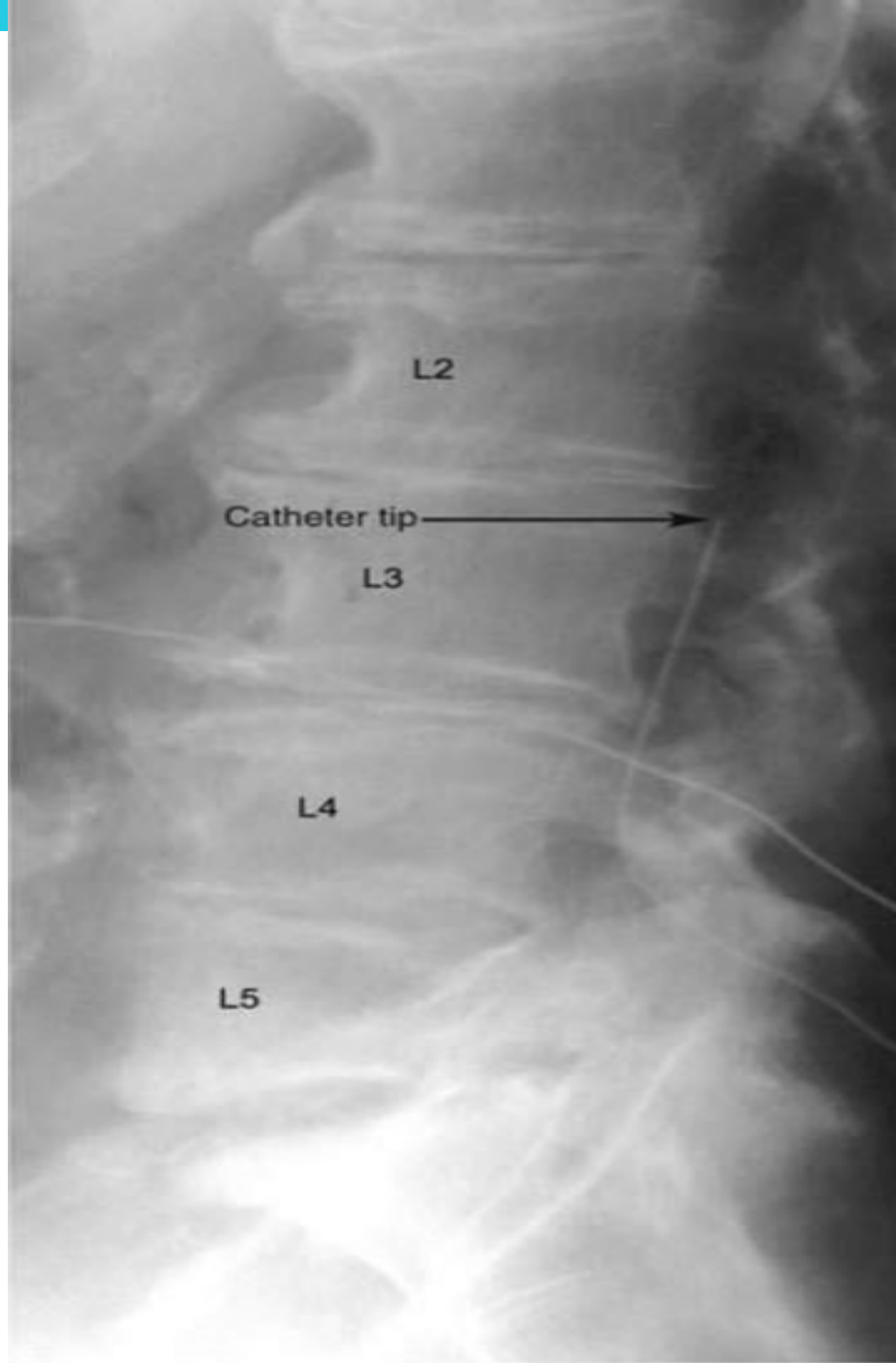


N

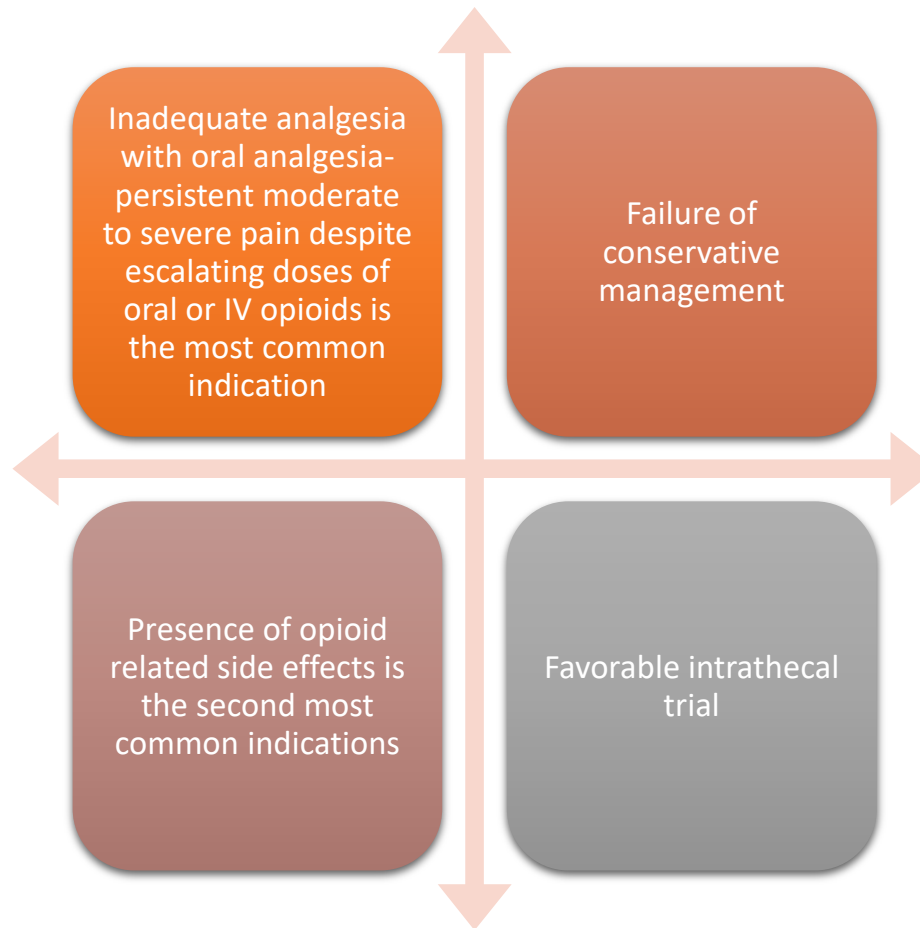
Coil catheter into pocket, place pump inside, and suture closed







# Indications



# Contraindications

## Absolute

- Infection
- Coagulopathy
- Local skin infection at the planned site
- Elevated CSF pressure

## Relative

- Unstable spine
- Obstructive metastasis in the spine

All that glitters is not  
GOLD

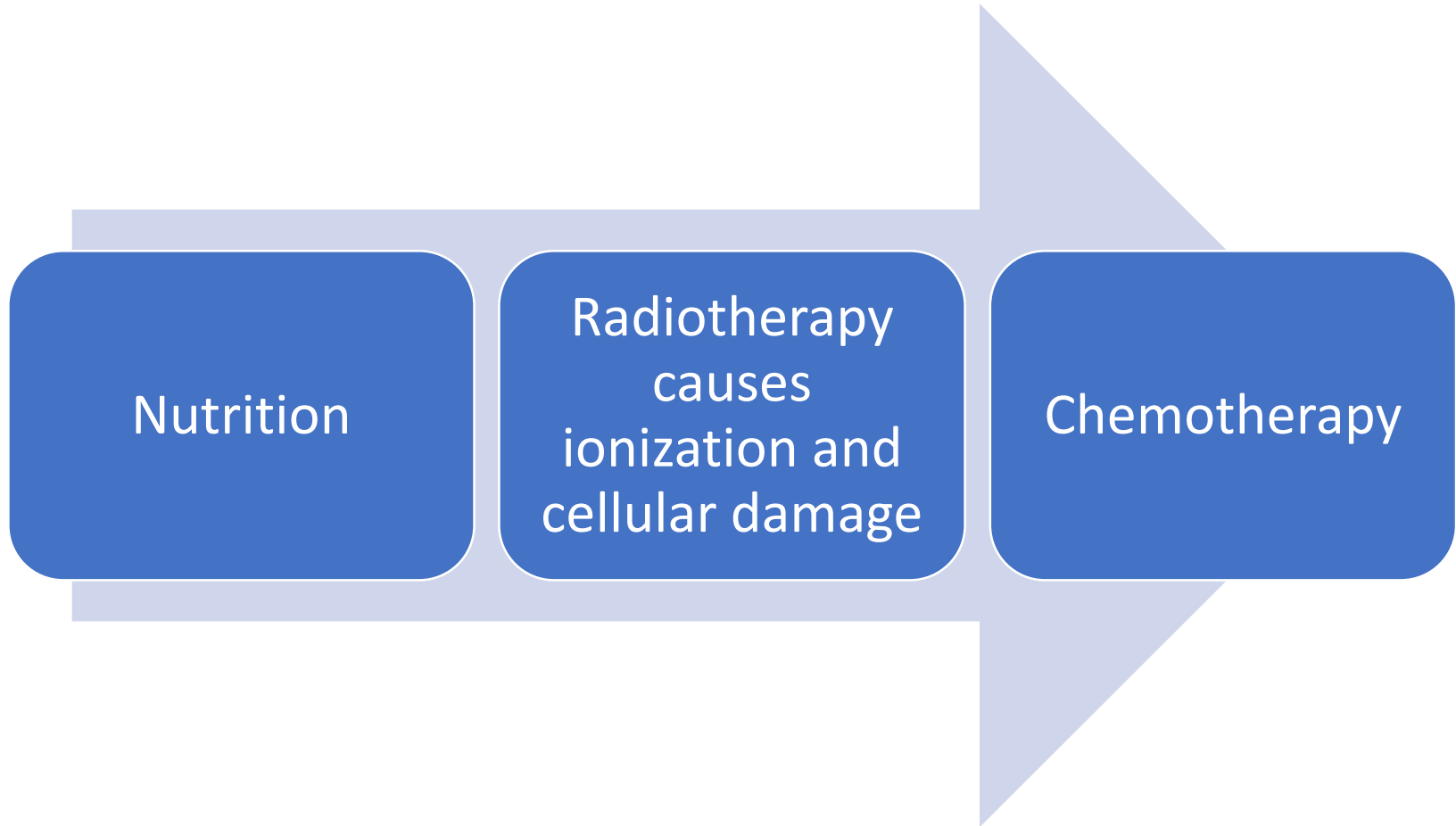
# Risk Factors

Immunosuppression

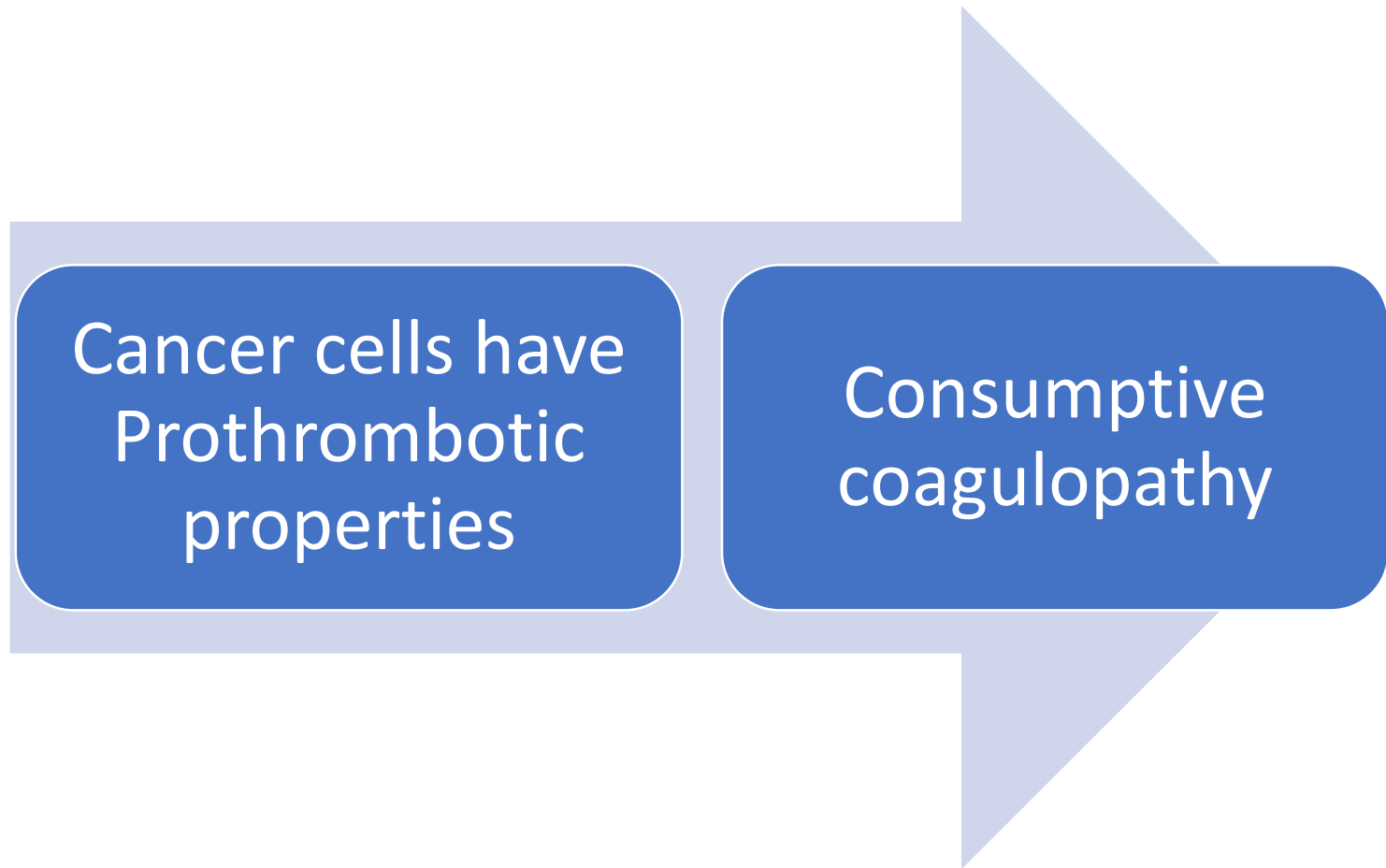
Coagulopathy

Compromised  
Wound healing

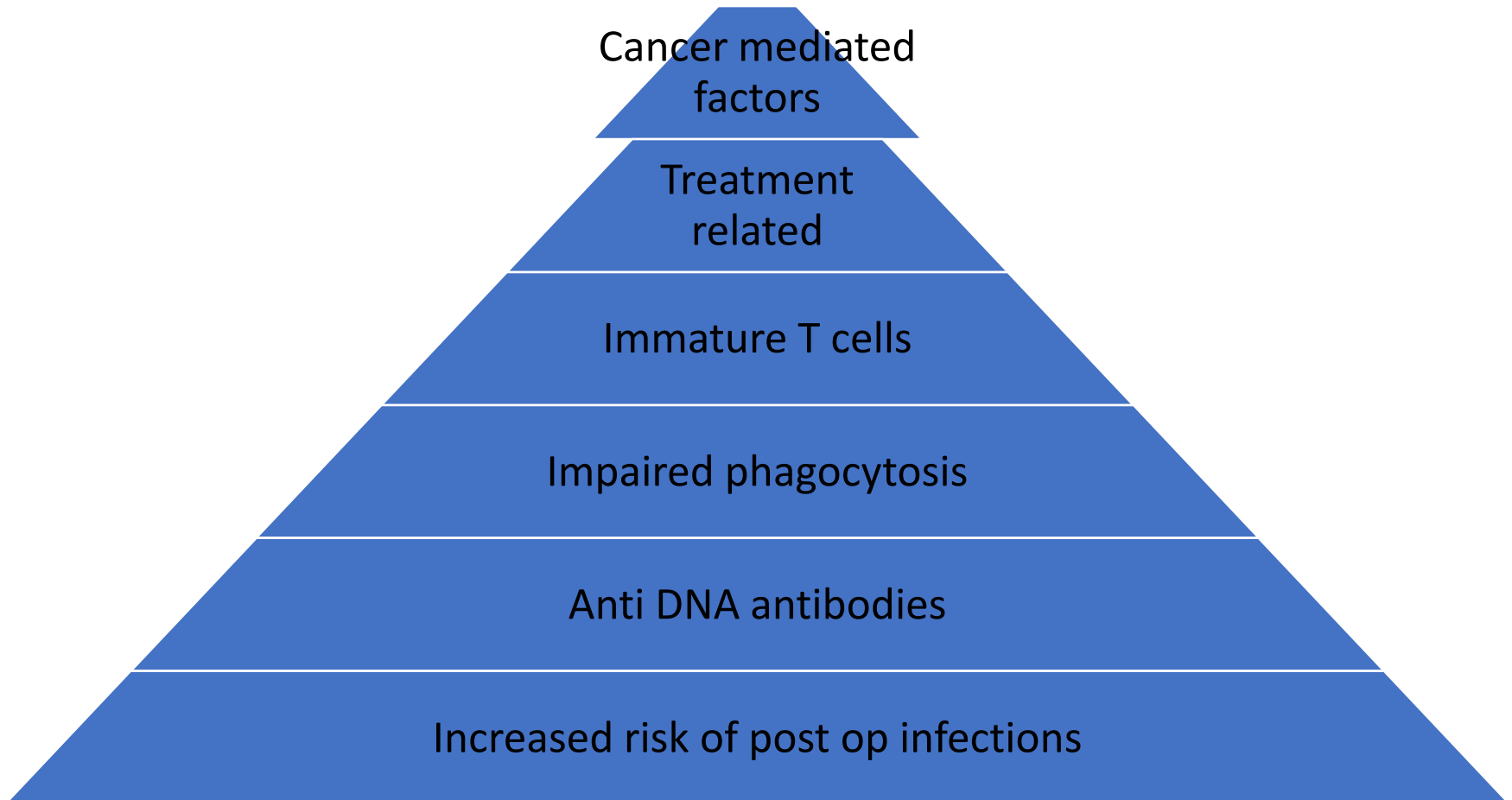
# Wound healing



# Coagulopathy



# Immunosuppression





# Summary

Interventional pain techniques are a core component in the WHO analgesic ladder

Should not be reserved for refractory pain or as the last resort

Interventions should be evaluated as an early option

Should be considered as a central component of a multidisciplinary approach to treating pain in cancer patients.



Thank you



