



Sacral nerve stimulation versus FENIX<sup>™</sup> magnetic sphincter augmentation for adult faecal incontinence

This project was funded by the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment (project number 12/35/07)



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# **Faecal Incontinence**

- 3 8% adult population
- More common with advancing age
- 2<sup>nd</sup> commonest admission to nursing home
- Impacts on social, physical, and mental wellbeing
- Substantial burden on NHS resources





# **Sacral Nerve Stimulation**

### **Sacral Nerve Stimulation**

NICE 2007 recommended

*"trial of SNS be considered in patients in whom sphincter surgery is deemed inappropriate"* 

- 2-stage procedure
  - i) PNE ii) Permanent InterStim











# **Sacral Nerve Modulation**

#### Popular and well accepted

- Minimally invasive technique
- Well cited success rates ~70%
- Minimal morbidity 5 26%

#### **Cost-effective**

- Initial costs
  - Direct costs ~ £9,000
  - Indirect costs ~£12,959
- Cost of colostomy ~£27,000 over 5 years
- Cost-effective ICER £25,070





### Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of neuromodulation in the treatment of faecal incontinence

N. N. Thin<sup>1</sup>, E. J. Horrocks<sup>1</sup>, A. Hotouras<sup>1</sup>, S. Palit<sup>1</sup>, M. A. Thaha<sup>1</sup>, C. L. H. Chan<sup>1</sup>, K. E. Matzel<sup>2</sup> and C. H. Knowles<sup>1</sup> Br J Surg 2013; 100; 1430-47

#### **Success and cure rates**

		Permanent implants				Intention-to-treat		
Reference	Median follow-up (months)	No. at baseline	No. at follow-up	% at follow-up	> 50% improvement in FI episodes per week (%)	100% continence (%)	> 50% improvement in FI epsiodes per week (%)	100% continence (%)
Summary* Short term Medium term Long term	12 (6–12) 25 (17–36) 56 (44–118)		29 (12–106) 37 (15–169) 21 (9–91)	100 (56–100) 100 (64–100) 79 (21–100)	79 (69–83) 80 (65–88) 84 (75–100)	42 (21–68) 40 (5–74) 35 (4–52)	63 (33–66) 58 (52–81) 54 (50–58)	36 (8–68) 32 (4–74) 20 (2–48)

#### Only 86 patients with long term FU data

## **Quality of Life**

- Most report significant improvement in all domains of QoL
- Not ITT analysis



# **Fenix Continence Restoration System**



Implanted around anal canal to maintain closure

- CE marked 2011
- Minimally invasive
- Augments natural anal sphincter
- ~£4K per implant
- Limited clinical data suggests safe & effective





Expands during stool passage, then re-approximates

# **Surgical Technique**







- Single perineal incision
- Tunnel in the ischioanal fossa just beneath the levator ani
- Sizing tool for model selection
- Implant and verify with fluoroscopy





# **Fenix Registry**

#### **Cleveland Clinic Incontinence Score**





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#### FI Quality of Life



■ before surgery ■ after surgery





# Insertion of a magnetic bead band for faecal incontinence Issued: March 2014

NICE interventional procedure guidance 483 guidance.nice.org.uk/ipg483

- Current evidence on safety and efficacy of a magnetic bead band for faecal incontinence is **limited**..... If further evidence supports the efficacy of this procedure, it has the potential to significantly improve quality of life for appropriately selected patients
- Clinicians should offer all eligible patients entry into the HTA trial 12/35/07
- The procedure should only be performed in units specializing in the assessment and treatment of faecal incontinence







## **Objectives**

- Short-term safety and efficacy of FENIX and SNS
- Impact of FENIX and SNS on QoL and cost effectiveness





## **Primary outcome**

 Proportion of patients with FENIX or SNS in situ at 18months follow-up with device working and with ≥50% improvement in CCIS

### **Secondary outcomes**

- Length of stay
- Complications
- Re-interventions
- Constipation
- QoL
- Cost effectiveness



# Design

• UK, multi-centre, prospective, parallel-group, randomised controlled, unblinded study

## **Eligibility**

- Failed medical management
- Moderate to severe FI
  - Incontinence > 6 months, suffering ≥2 incontinent episodes per week





#### Sample size

- 350 participants to detect at least 20% in percentage of success at 18-months post-randomisation between FENIX and SNS at 5% significance, 90% power
- Success device in situ and working with ≥50% CCIS improvement
- Allows 20% loss to follow-up

#### Recruitment

- 2-years
- 24 surgeons recruiting 15 patients



## Site eligibility

- NHS hospital providing specialist treatment for FI with membership of ACPGBI
- Experience in SNS
- Facilities to perform endoscopy, manometry, EAUS

## **Surgeon eligibility**

- Performed minimum of 10 SNS
- Minimum 1 observed FENIX + 2 performed FENIX
- Moderate to severe FI
  - Incontinence > 6 months, suffering ≥2 incontinent episodes per week





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# **FENIX<sup>™</sup> MSA** Device Funding



- The FENIX<sup>™</sup> MSA device was classed as an NHS treatment cost in line with the DoH's AcoRD guidance.
- No process in place for funding of NHS treatment costs through NHS England
- QIPP proposal developed and submitted to NHSE in Q1 2015
- Signed off by NHSE centrally- then filtered out to NHSE regional teams – Q2 2015
- Knock on effect on site set-up
  - Sites unable to submit local applications until funding resolved







# **SaFaRI Sites**

SaFaRI Sites					
St James's University Hospital	Ninewells Hospital				
University Hospital of North Durham	UCHL				
Southampton General Hospital	Royal Liverpool				
Northern General Hospital, Sheffield	Leicester Royal Infirmary				
St Peter's Hospital	St. Thomas' Hospital, London				
Poole Hospital	Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham				
Boyal Doyan & Exotor Hoopital	Derriford Hospital, Plymouth				
Royal Devolt & Exelet Rospital	Derriford Hospital, Plymouth				
Churchill Hospital (Oxford)	Derriford Hospital, Plymouth St Mark's Hospital				
Churchill Hospital (Oxford) Wythenshawe Hospital	Derriford Hospital, Plymouth St Mark's Hospital Dewsbury District Hospital				
Churchill Hospital (Oxford) Wythenshawe Hospital Good Hope Hospital	Derriford Hospital, Plymouth St Mark's Hospital Dewsbury District Hospital Royal Victoria Infirmary				
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# SaFaRI Recruitment





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# **Summary**

- SaFaRI addresses an important research question
- Provides a rigorous and safe evaluation of a new technology that could save the NHS money
- 12 months behind schedule due to national FENIX<sup>™</sup> MSA device funding issues
- Recruitment picking up with resolution of funding issues and timely opening of sites







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