



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Dipartimento di Neurologia e Psichiatria  
Unità di Malattie Neuromuscolari

# Diagnostica Neurofisiologica

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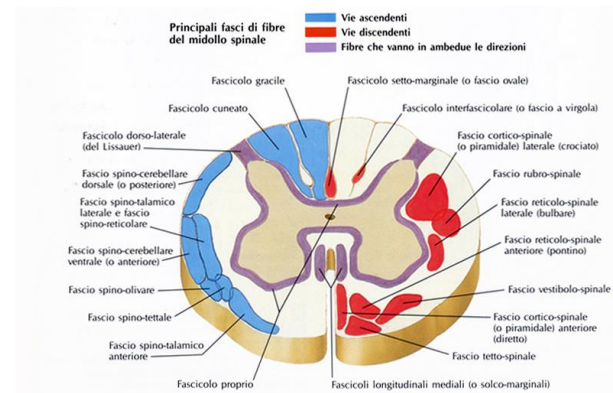
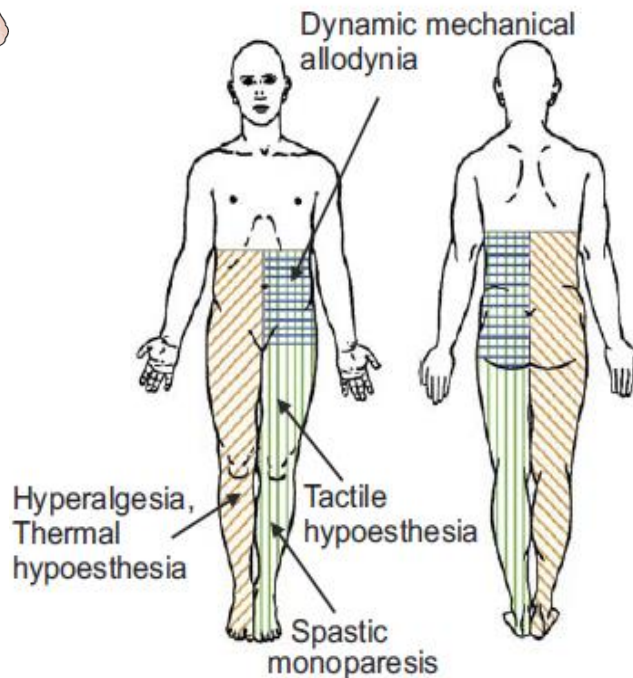
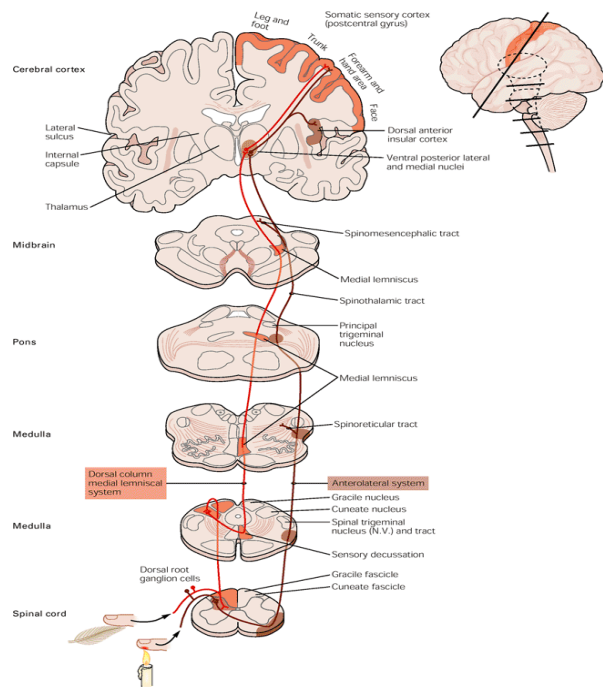
*C.Leone*

*Department of Neurology and Psychiatry, Sapienza University, Rome*

# Approccio al paziente neurologico

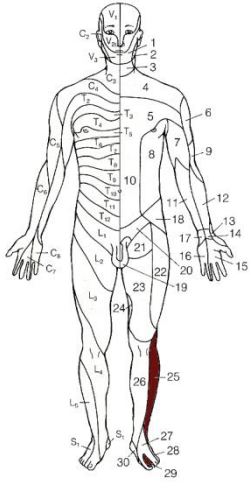
- Anamnesi
- Distribuzione neuroanatomica
- Esame obiettivo (bedside examination)
- Diagnostica strumentale

## Brown Sequard Syndrome

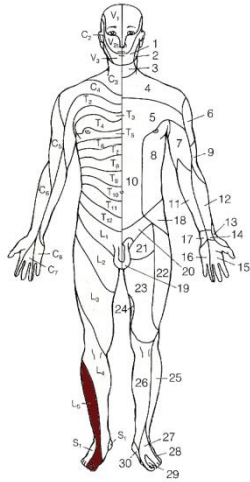


# Clinical diagnosis

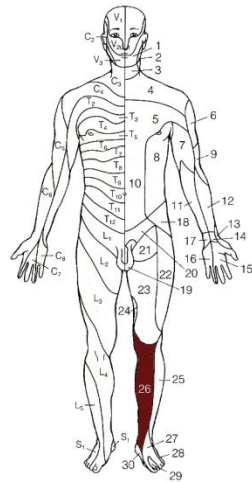
Peroneal mononeuropathy



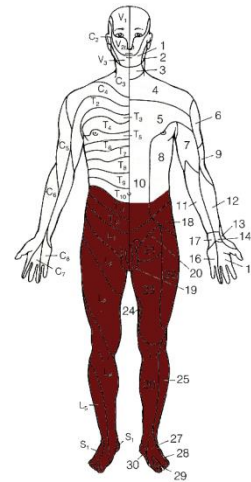
L5- radiculopathy



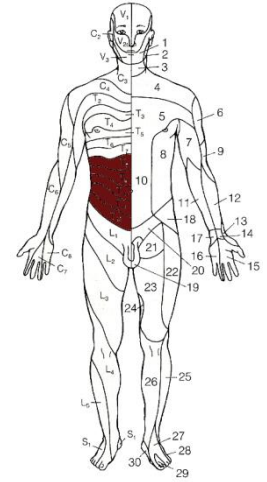
Saphenous mononeuropathy



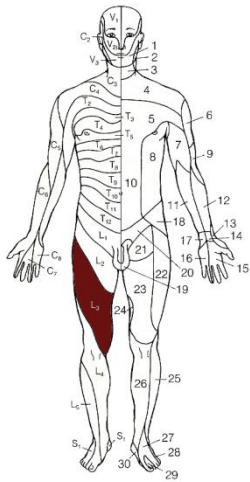
Myelopathy



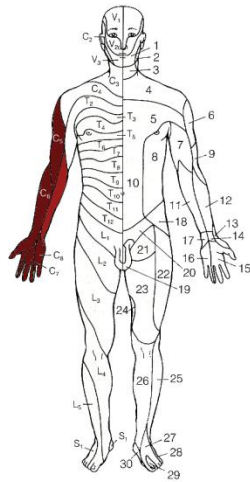
Herpes Zoster



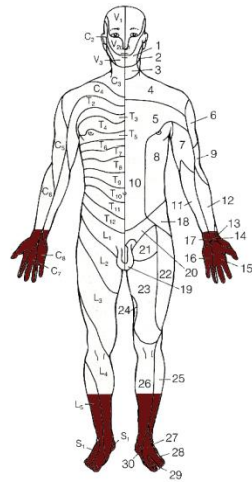
L3- radiculopathy



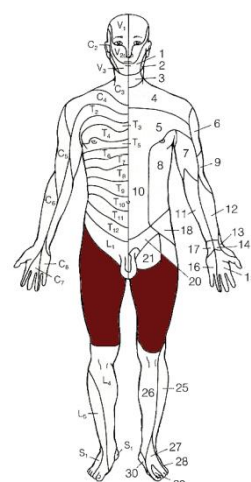
Brachial plexopathy



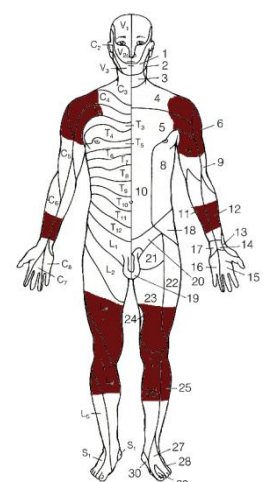
Polyneuropathy



Amiotrophy

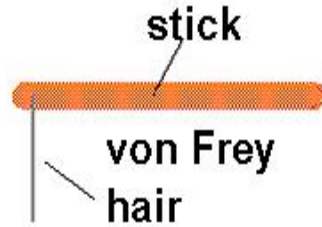
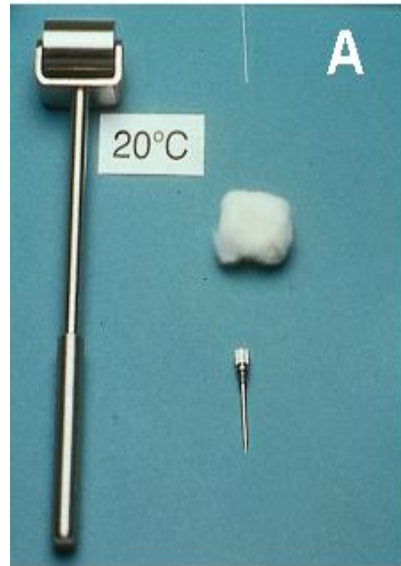


Fibromyalgia

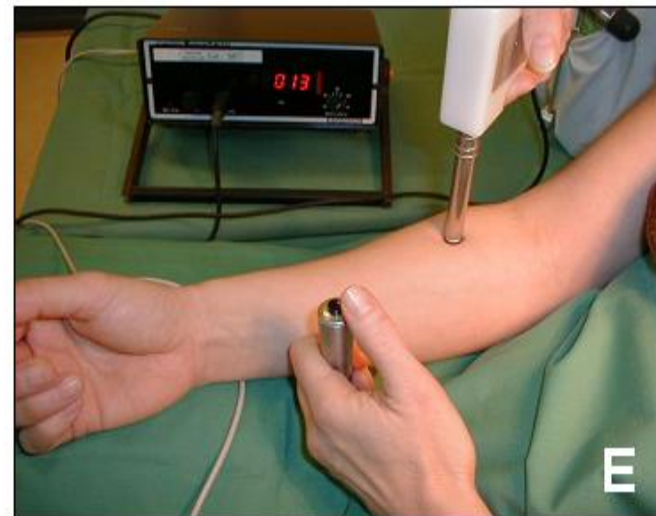


# Bedside examination

## Quantitative sensory testing



B



E

# Diagnostica delle patologie del sistema nervoso periferico

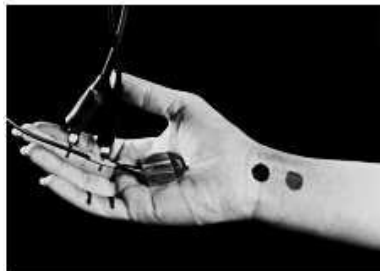
## Esami diagnostici:

- ENG/EMG
- Biopsia cute
- Riflessi trigeminali
- Potenziali evocati

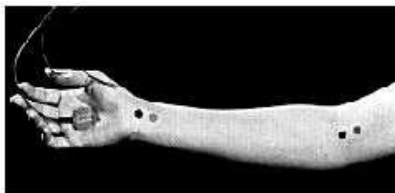
# Esame elettroencefalografico (ENG)

## ENG sensitiva

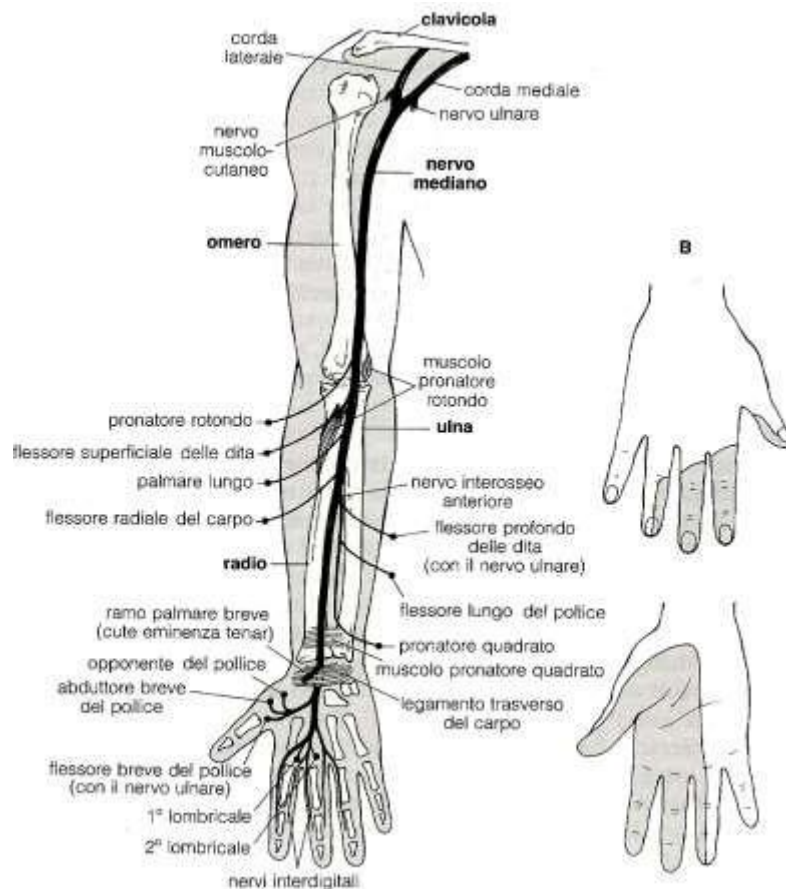
### Rec distale



### Rec prossimale

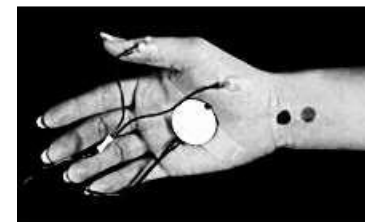


## Nervo mediano

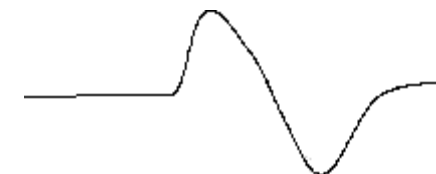


## ENG motoria

### Stim distale



### Stim prossimale



# Parametri da valutare

- Presenza/assenza del potenziale
- Ampiezza del potenziale ( $\mu\text{V}$ )
- Latenza del potenziale (msec)
- Morfologia del potenziale
- Velocità di conduzione (m/sec)

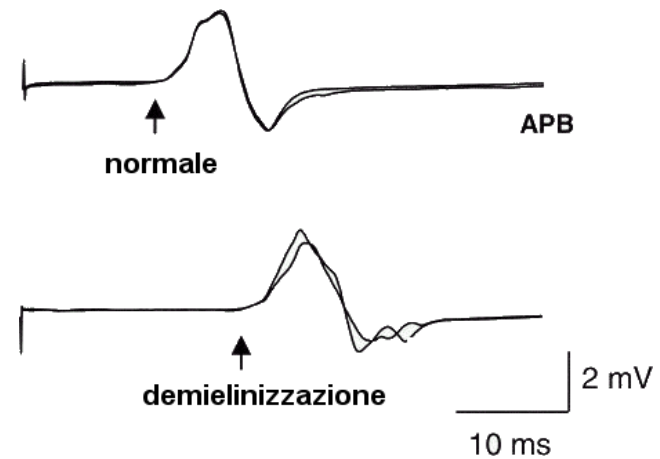
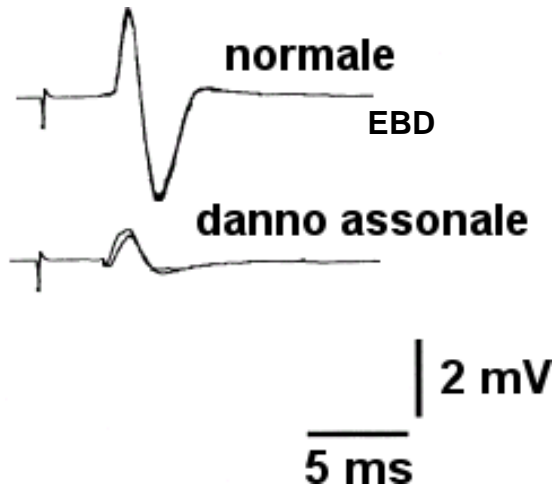
$$\frac{\text{distanza tra i due punti di stimolazione (mm)}}{\text{tempo di conduzione tra i due punti (ms)}}$$

- Distribuzione del danno

# Classificazione neurofisiologica patologie del nervo periferico (neuropatie)

-**Assonali** (diabetica, alcolica, tossico-carenziale, genetica)

-**Demielinizzanti** (Neuropatie infiammatorie, genetica)

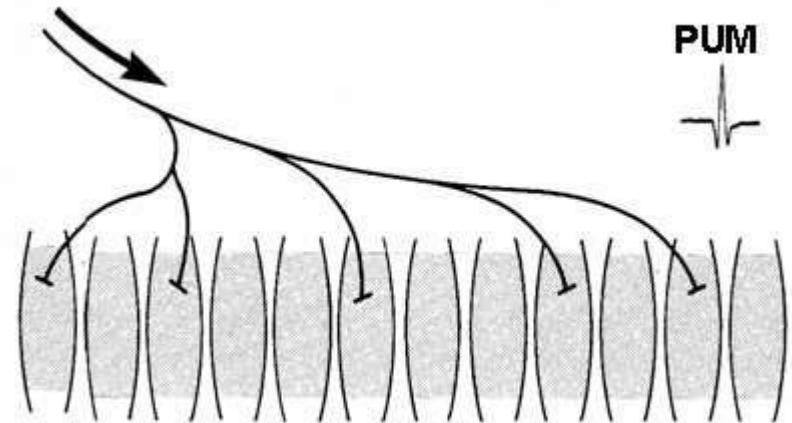
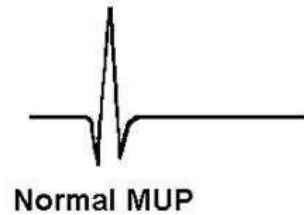
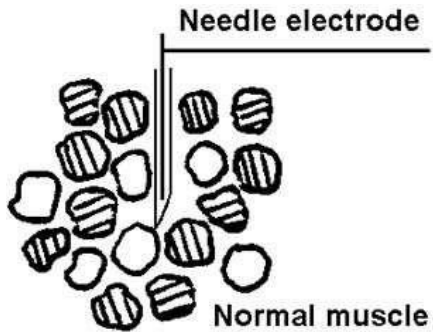
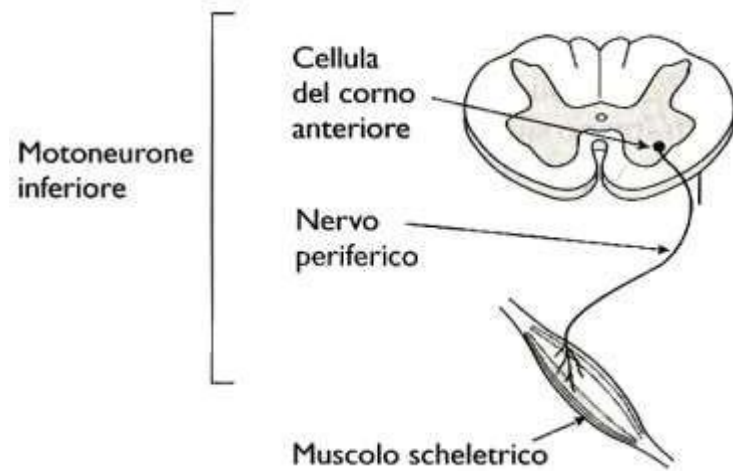
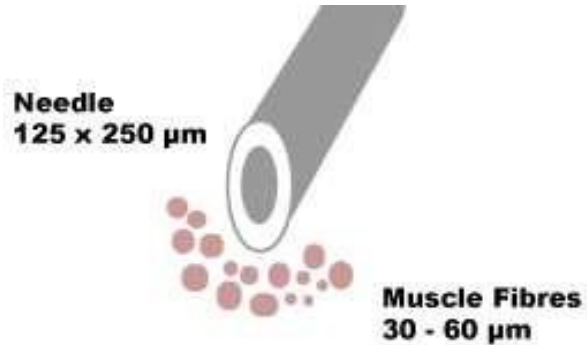


## Classificazione delle neuropatie

- Sensitive
- Motorie
- Sensitivo-motorie
- Mononeuropatie (trauma, infiltrazione)
- Multineuropatie (ischemia)
- Polineuropatie (tossiche, dismetaboliche)

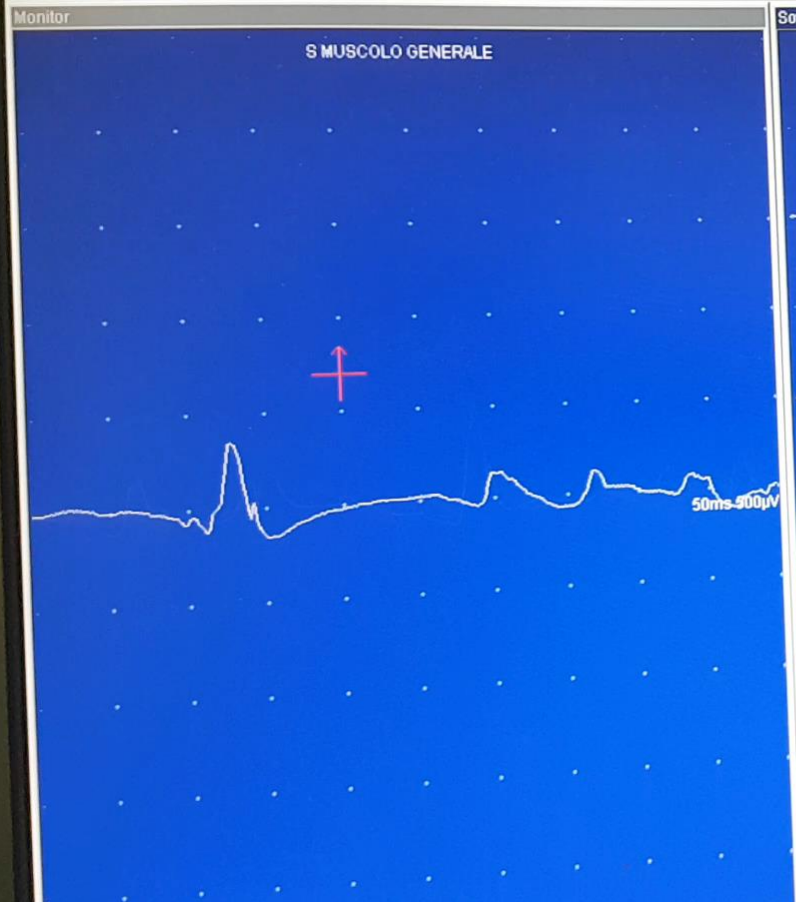


# Elettromiografia

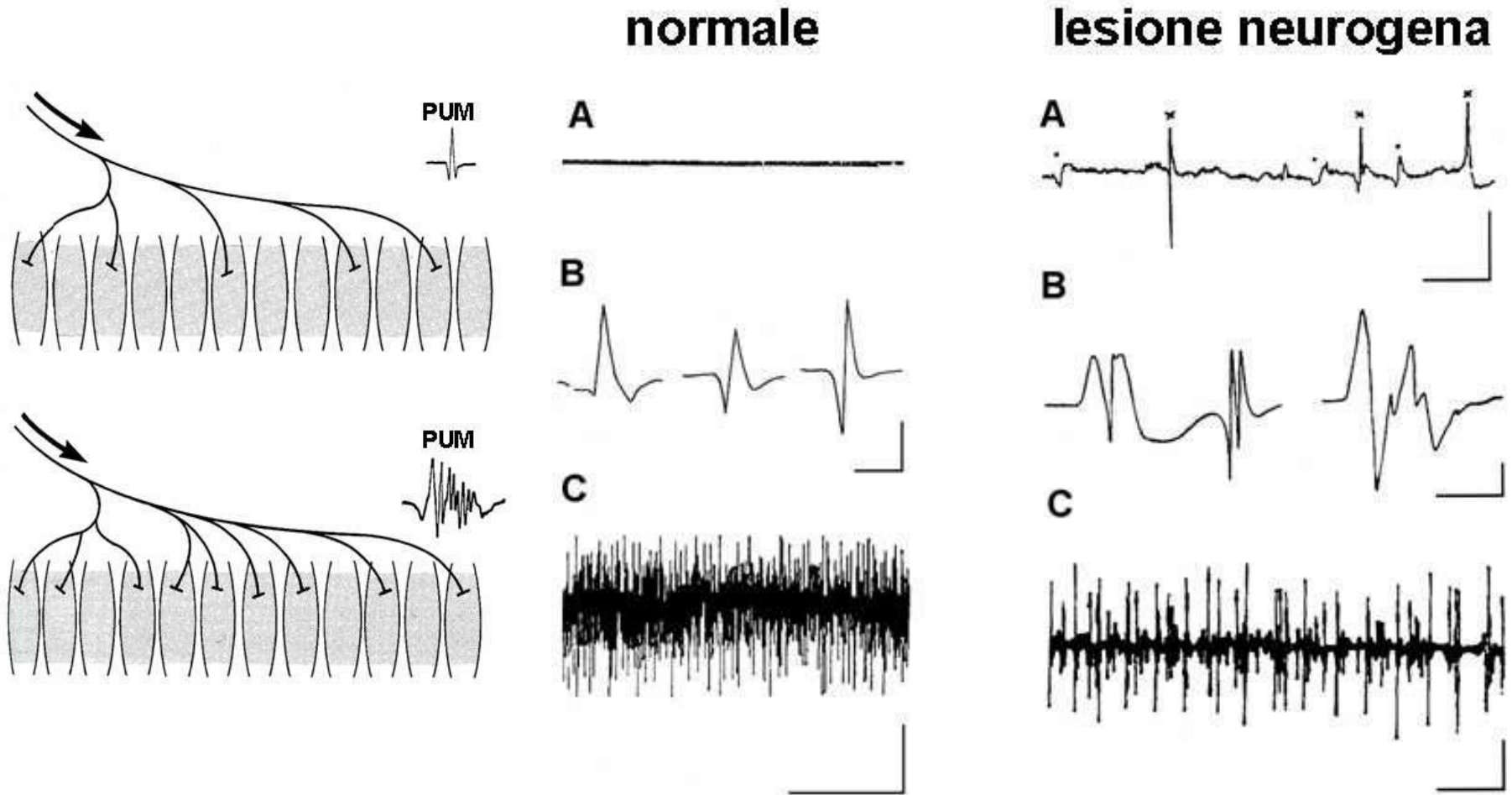


# Parametri da valutare

- Presenza/Assenza attività a riposo (denervazione)
- Ampiezza dei PUM (mV)
- Morfologia dei PUM
- Durata dei PUM (msec)
- Reclutamento



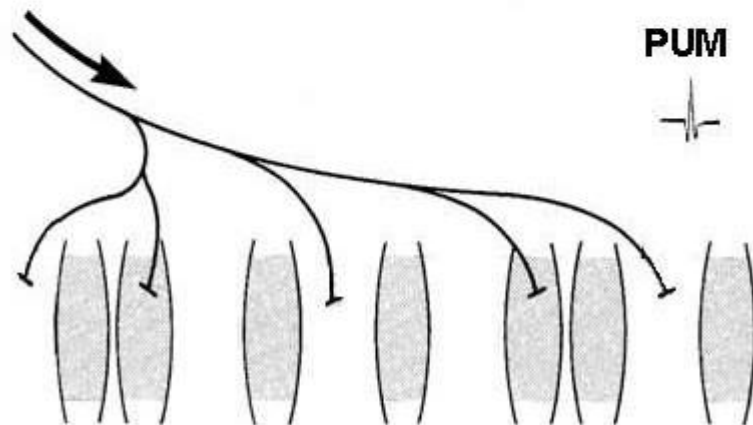
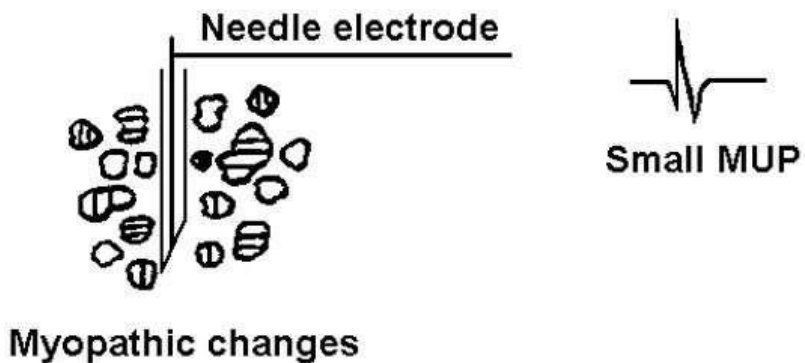
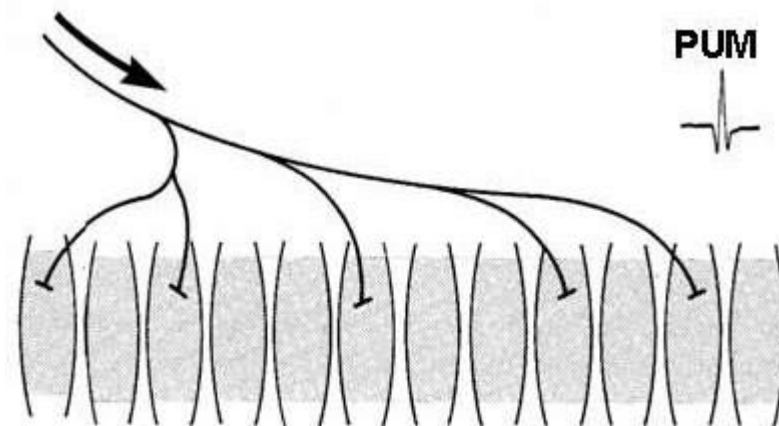
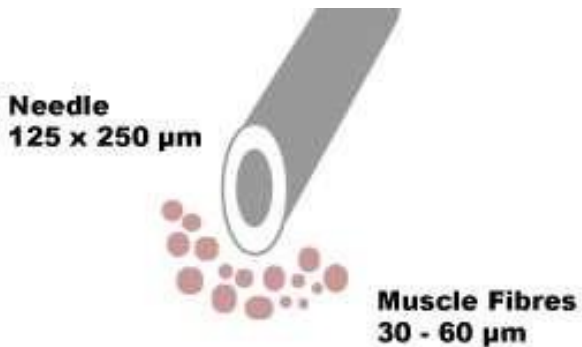
# EMG nelle lesioni nervose



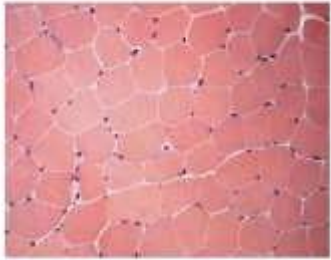
I segni di danno neurogeno compaiono nelle lesioni del contingente motorio periferico:

- malattie del nervo (radice spinale, nervo periferico).
- malattie del II neurone di moto.

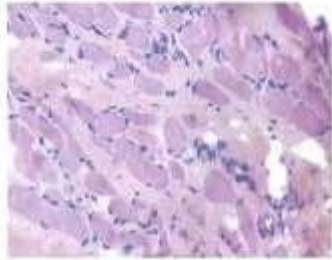
# EMG nelle miopatie



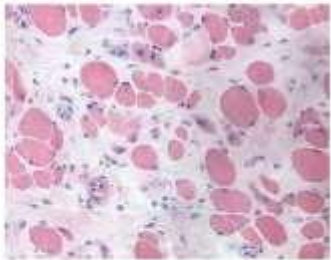
## Muscle Dystrophies - Muscle biopsy



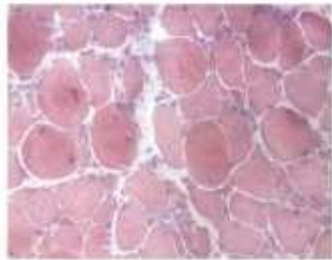
Control



Dystrophin deficiency



Merosin deficiency



Collagen VI deficiency

— Bar: 40µm

## Normale

**A**



**B**



**C**



## Miopatia

**A**



**B**



**C**



**ENG:** utile nelle neuropatie. Permette di differenziare le neuropatie assonali dalla demielinizzanti, con importanti implicazioni terapeutiche e prognostiche.

**Nelle sezione del nervo:** assenza dei potenziali sensitivi e motori.

**Nella neuropatia da intrappolamento:** rallentamento della velocità di conduzione attraverso la zona compressa.

**Nelle polineuropatie assonali:** riduzione di ampiezza dei potenziali sens e mot

**Nelle neuropatie demielinizzanti:** rallentamento della velocità di conduzione.

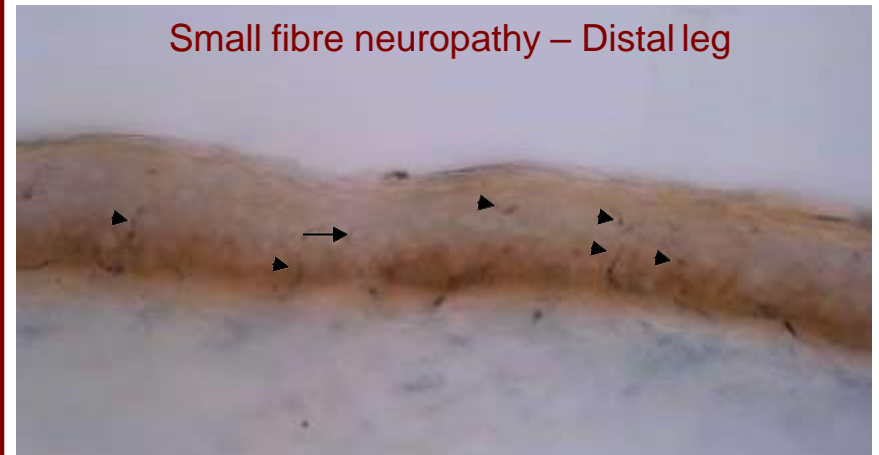
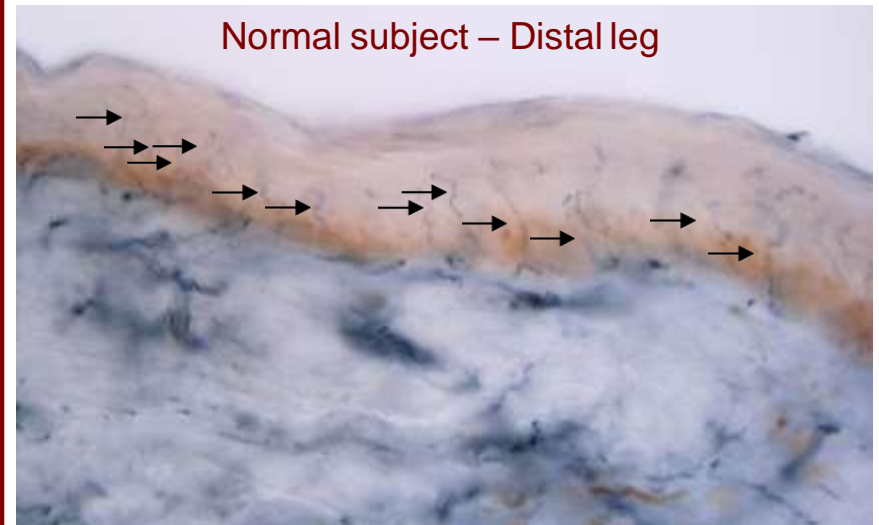
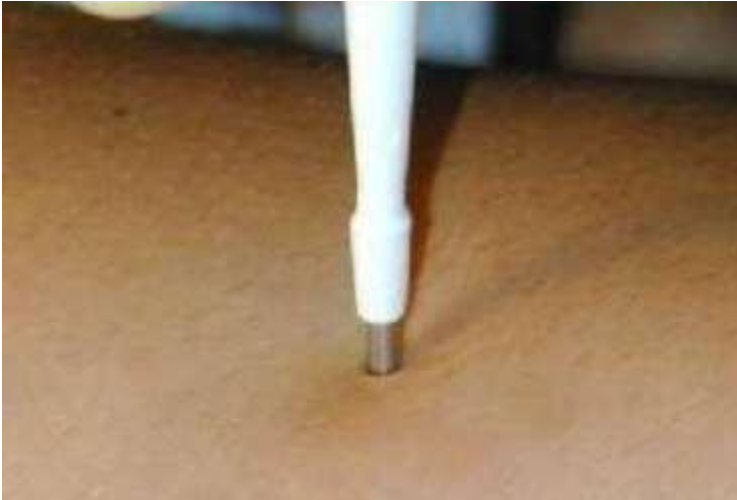
**Non** indicata nei **danni del II neurone di moto** o nei danni **radicolari**.

**EMG:** esame invasivo. Necessita della collaborazione del paziente. Utile nella valutazione dei **danni a carico del contingente motorio periferico, dal II neurone di moto al nervo periferico**. Esame essenziale nella valutazione delle **miopatie**.

**Non** indicata nelle **polineuropatie**.

*Sia l'ENG, sia l'EMG non sono indicati nei disturbi sensitivi e motori causati da lesione del sistema nervoso centrale.*

# Skin biopsy

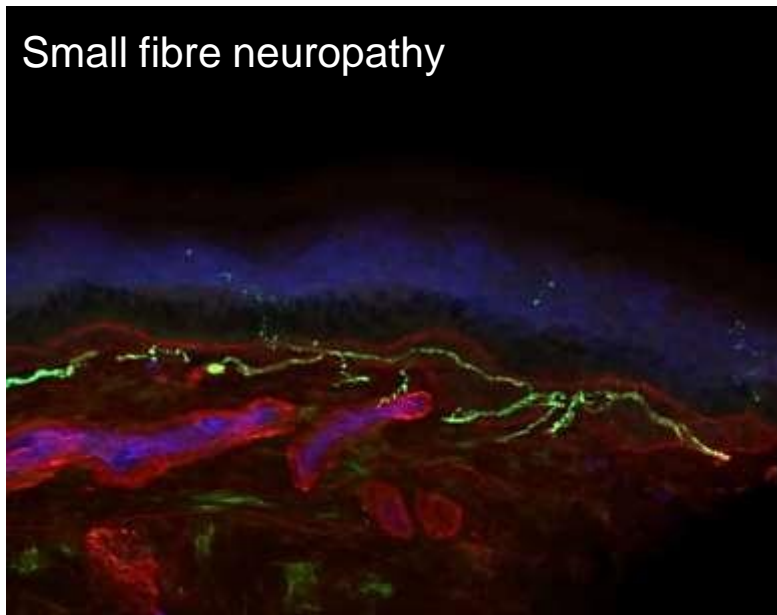
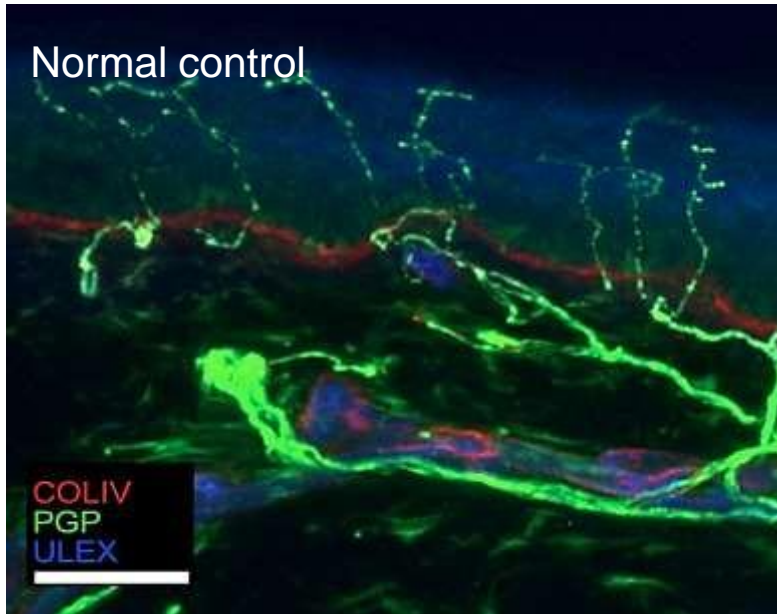


→ Normal nerve fibres

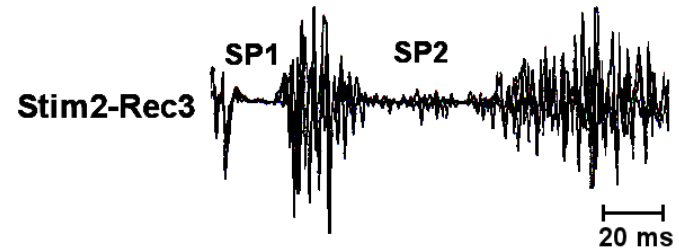
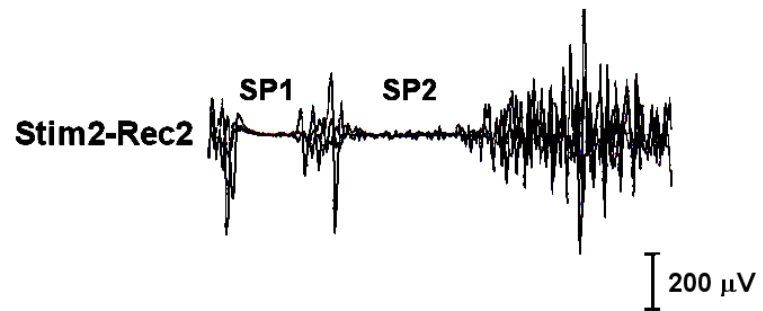
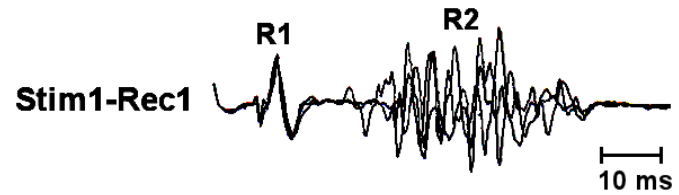
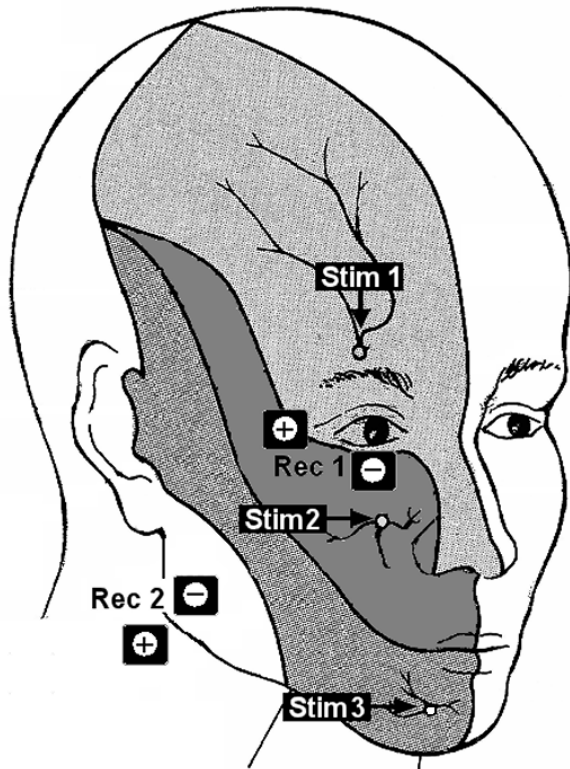
▶ Axonal abnormalities



# Comparative morphometry



# Trigeminal reflexes



# Blink reflex: anatomy

**R1:** short **oligosynaptic** circuit, **homotopycal**,  
Strictly **segmental**

The whole circuit lies in the **pons**

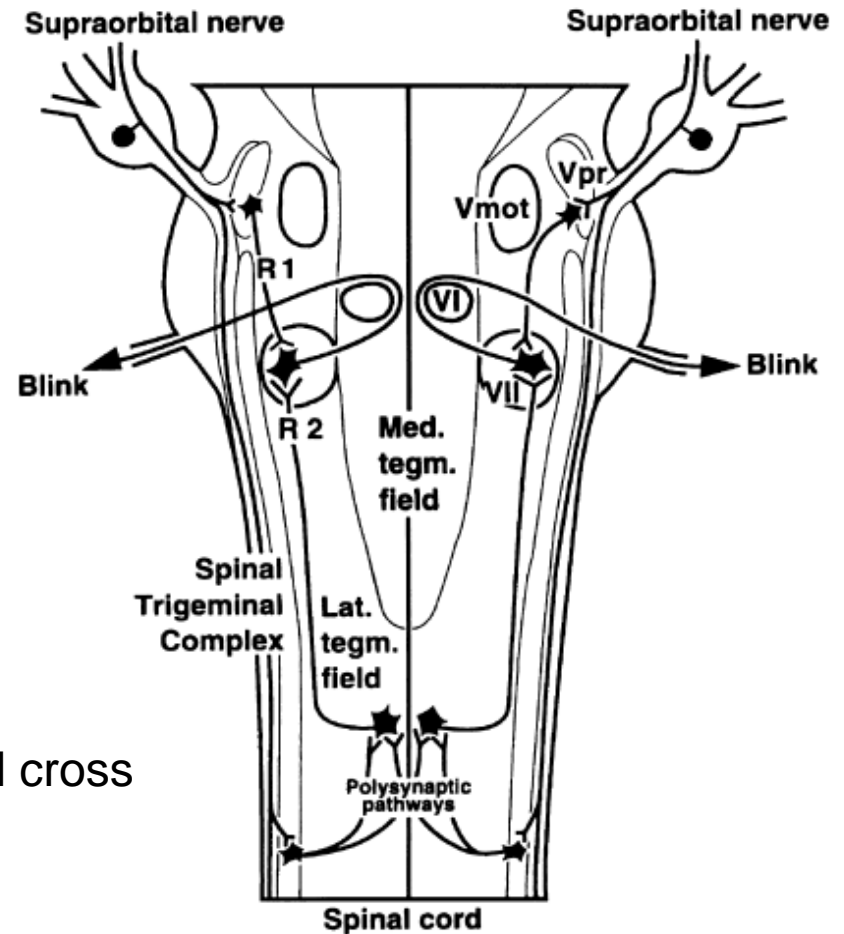
**Trigeminal afferent** impulses conducted by  
 $A\beta$  fibers

From 1 to 3 interneurons to the **facial  
motorneurons**

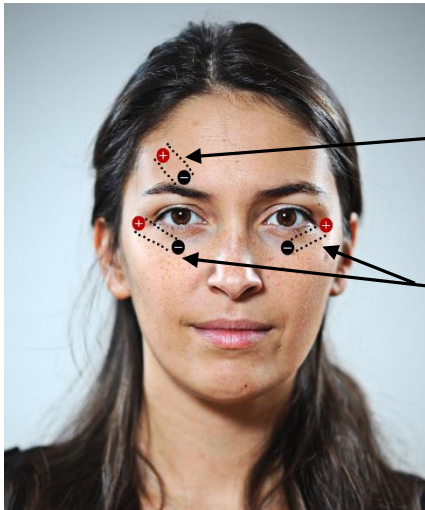
**R2:** **polysynaptic** circuit, ascending  
**ipsilateral** and **contralateral**

The circuit reach the **medulla oblongata** and cross  
the **midline**

To the **facial motorneurons**



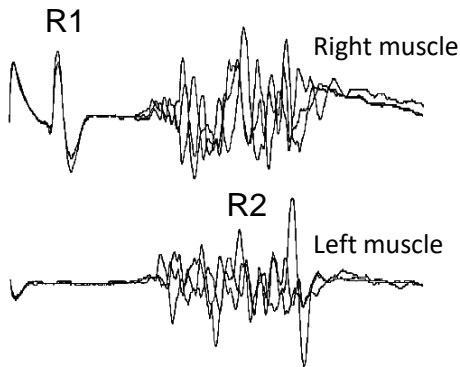
# Blink reflex



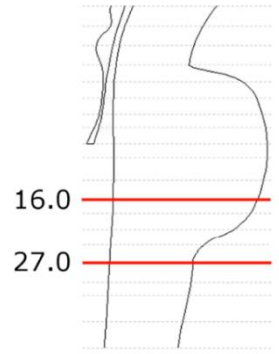
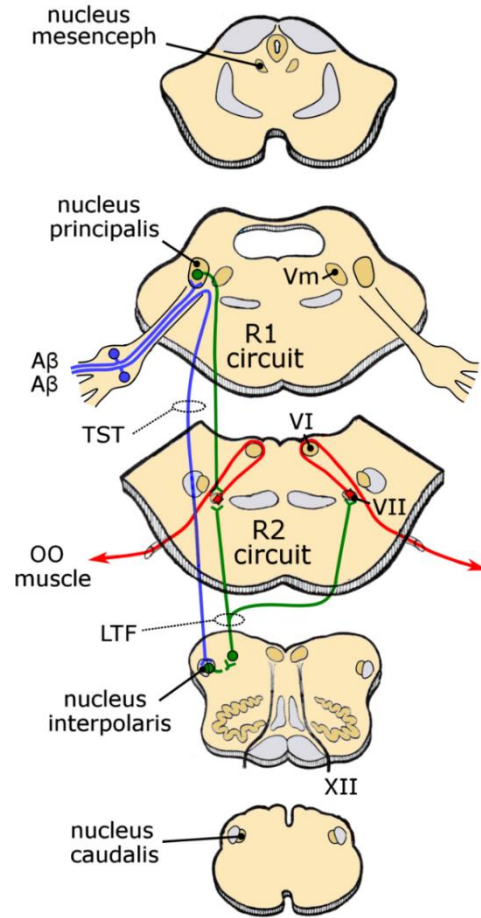
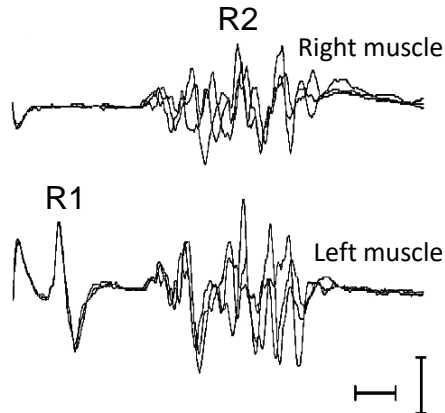
Supraorbital nerve stimulation  
(0.1 ms, 15-35 mA)

Orbicularis oculi recording  
(4 non-averaged trials)

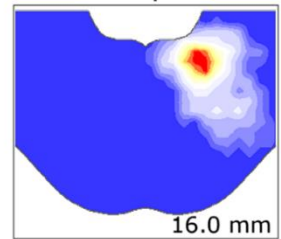
Right simulation



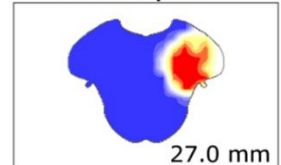
Left simulation



R1 response

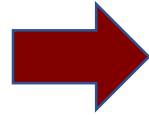


R2 response



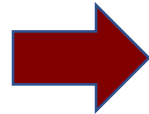
# Blink reflex

R1 **stable response**, resistant to all suprasegmental influences, including supratentorial lesions, disorders of consciousness, and cognitive factors.



**Reliable** in disclosing **peripheral lesions**

R2 is relatively **unstable**, **habituates** rapidly to repetitive rhythmic stimulations, and is strongly **modulated by suprasegmental influences**, cortical and basal ganglia dysfunction, disorders of consciousness, and cognitive factors



Allows **differentiation between** damage to the **afferent** (trigeminal) and **efferent** (facial) arcs of the reflex

# Masseter inhibitory reflex: anatomy

**SP1: short-latency** response, mediated by 1  
**inhibitory interneuron**

The whole circuit lies in the **mid-pons**

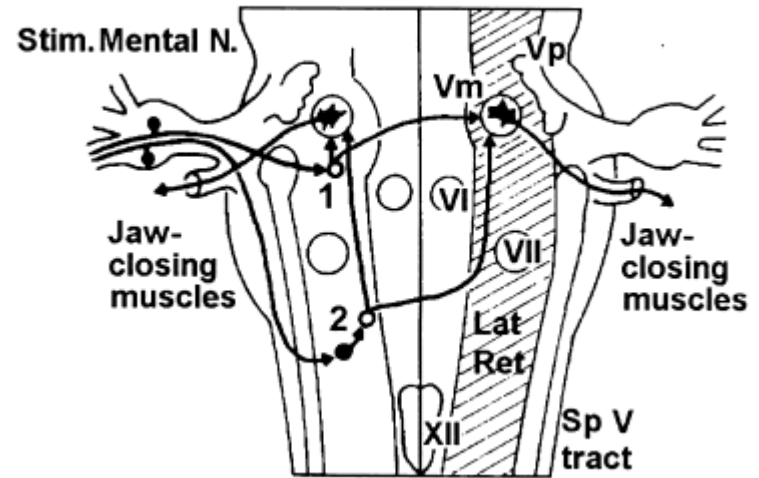
**Trigeminal afferent** impulses conducted by  
A $\beta$  fibers

Projections onto the **trigeminal jaw closing**  
**motoneurons bilaterally**

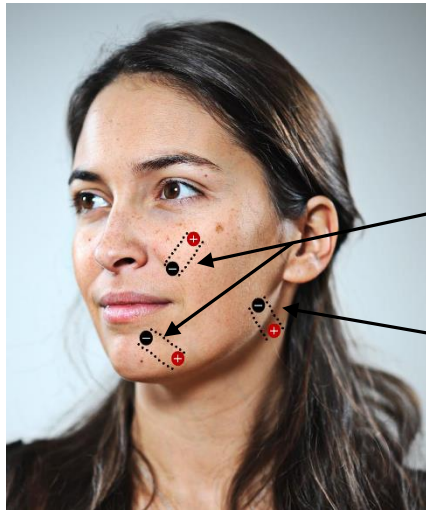
**SP2: polysynaptic** circuit, ascending  
**ipsilateral and contralateral**

The circuit is a chain of excitatory interneurons in the  
medullary lateral reticular formation, the last inhibitory

To the **trigeminal motoneurons**



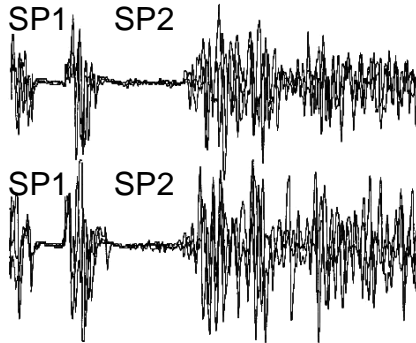
# Masseter inhibitory reflex



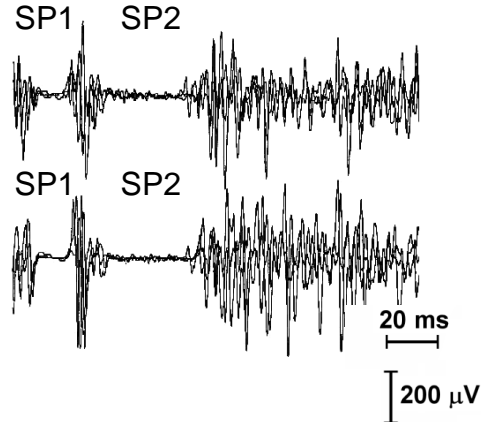
Infraorbital OR mental nerve stimulation  
(0.1 ms, 15-45 mA during clenching)

Masseter muscle recording,  
7 non averaged trials

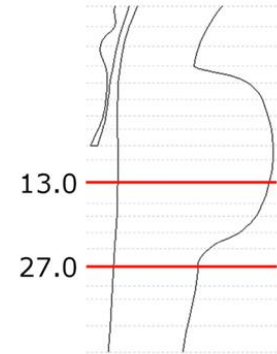
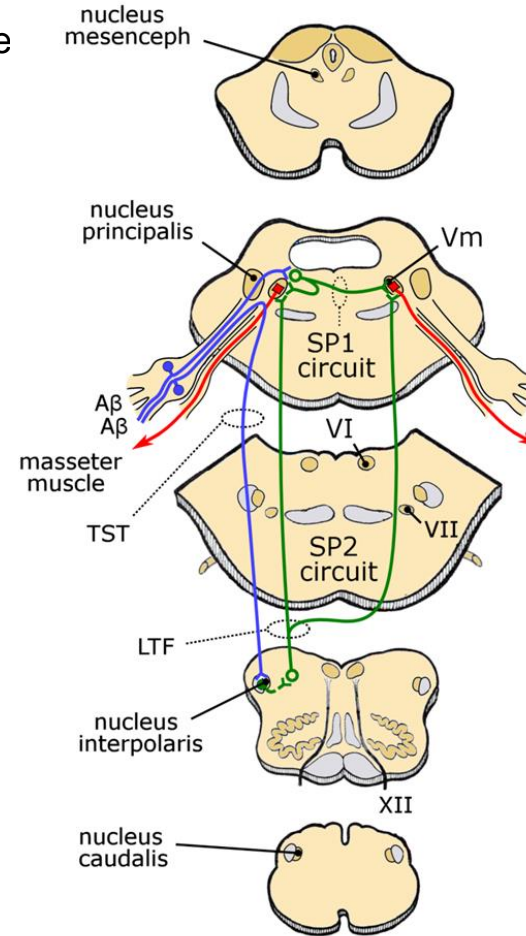
Right simulation



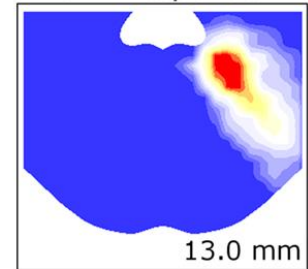
Left simulation



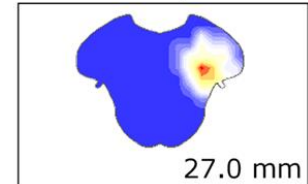
20 ms  
200  $\mu$ V



SP1 response



SP2 response



# Masseter inhibitory reflex

As in blink reflex studies, **the pattern of abnormality** of the masseter inhibitory reflex provides **important information on the site of the lesion**

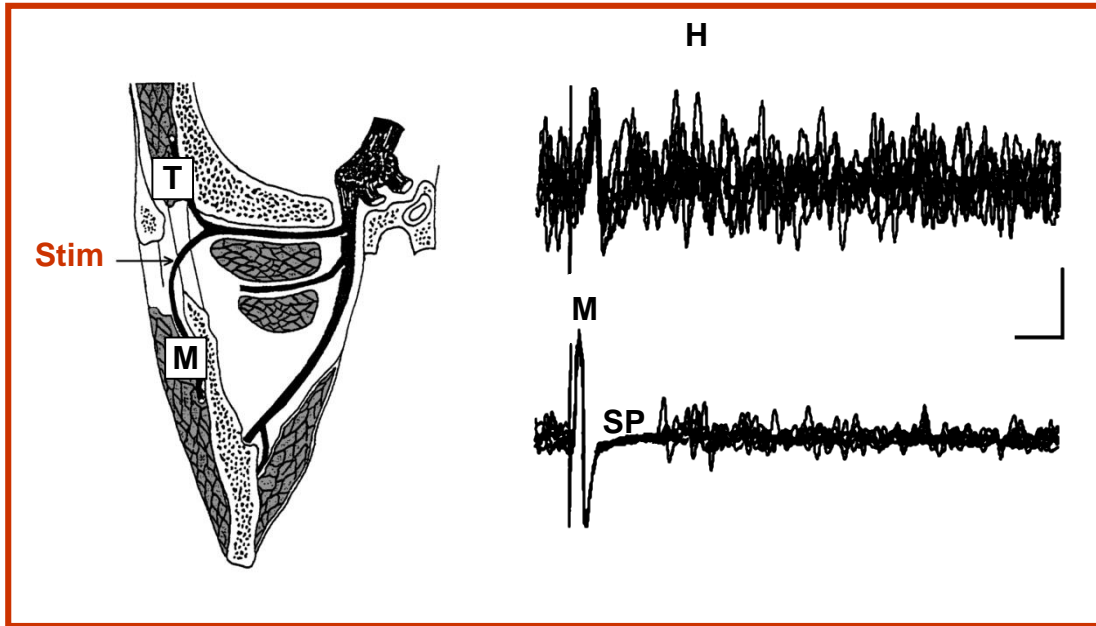
Typical abnormalities of brainstem reflexes and their diagnostic indications

Lesion/disease	Abnormal responses to ipsilateral stimulation <sup>a</sup>	Abnormal responses to contralateral stimulation <sup>a</sup>
1. Facial neuropathy	R1 and d-R2	c-R2
2. Focal trigeminal neuropathy (distal)	Either R1 or SP1 or JJ (R2 or SP2)	Normal
3. Focal trigeminal neuropathy (retrogasserian and root entry zone)	R1 and SP1 and JJ (R2 and SP2)	Normal
4. Sensory polyneuropathy	R1 and SP1 and JJ (R2 and SP2)	R1 and SP1 and JJ (R2 and SP2)
5. Sensory-motor polyneuropathy	All abnormal	All abnormal
6. Ganglionopathy	R1 and SP1 (R2 and SP2)	R1 and SP1 (R2 and SP2)
7. Dorsal midbrain lesion	JJ	Normal
8. Dorsal pontine lesion	All can be abnormal according to the precise site of lesion	Normal
9. Midline medullary lesion	c-R2 and c-SP2	c-R2 and c-SP2
10. Lateral medullary lesion	d- and c-R2; d- and c-SP2	Normal
11. Suprasegmental (pyramidal)	Normal	d- and c-R2 (d- and c-SP2)
12. Suprasegmental (extrapyramidal)	Enhanced excitability of R2 and SP2	Enhanced excitability of R2 and SP2

<sup>a</sup> R1, early blink reflex; d- and c-R2, direct and crossed late blink reflex; SP1 and SP2, early and late masseter inhibitory reflex; JJ, jaw jerk. Responses in parentheses are less frequently affected.

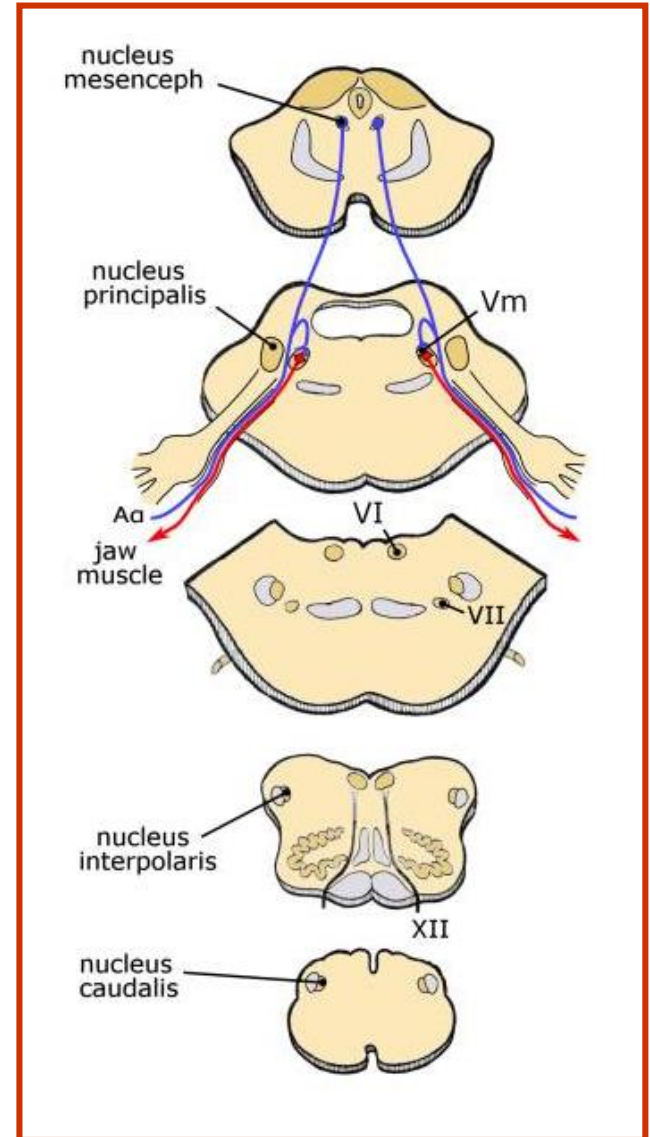


# Temporalis H Reflex

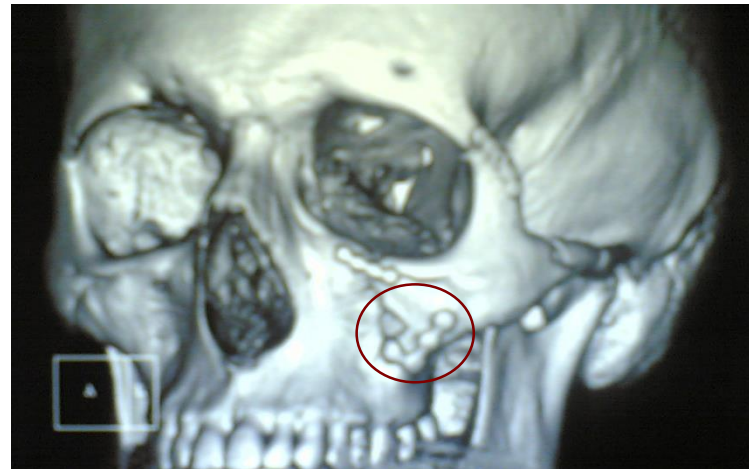
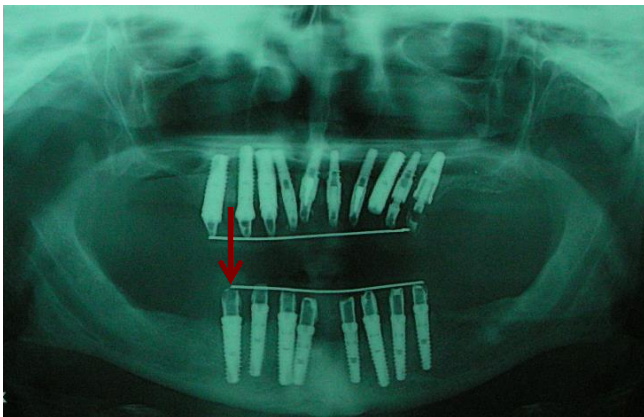
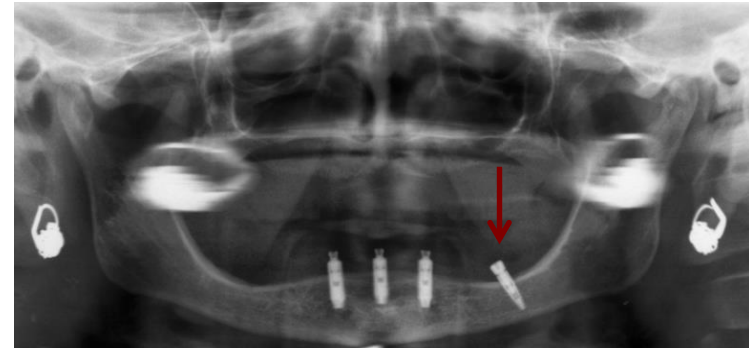
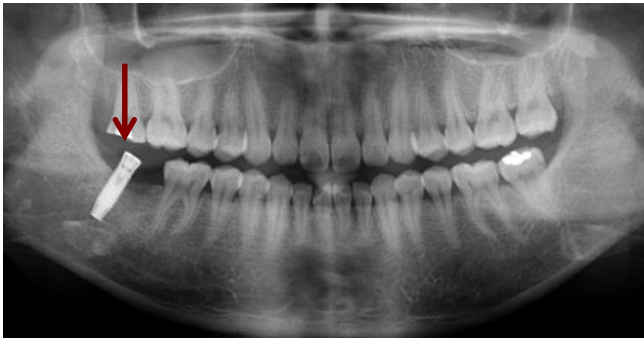
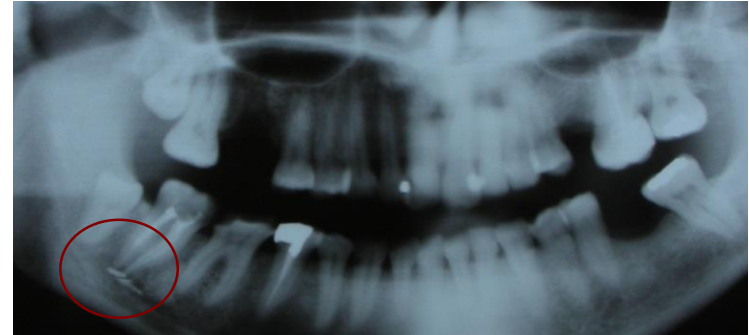


Stimulation:  
masseteric nerve in the infratemporal fossa  
(monopolar needle electrode; 0.1 ms, 3-5 mA)

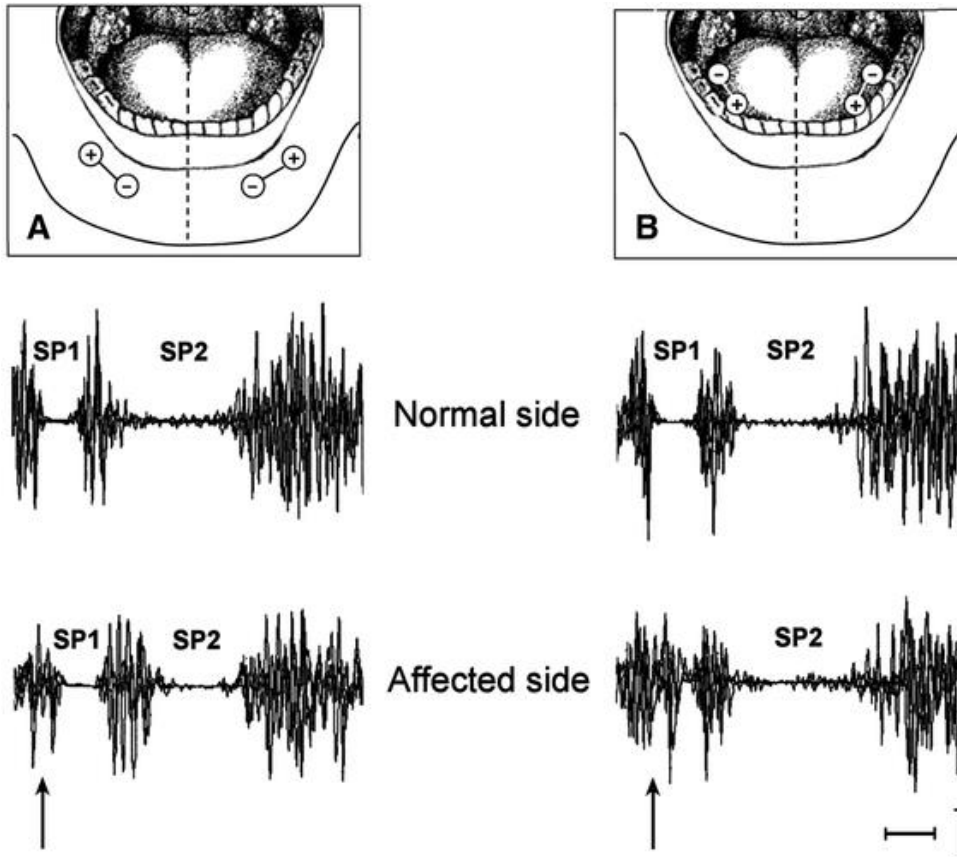
Recording:  
8 non-rectified trials,  
during clenching.  
Latency 4.5 ms



# Focal trigeminal neuropathy



# Diagnostic accuracy in iatrogenic damage



Concerning the overall diagnostic accuracy, the MIR was abnormal in 90 nerves and normal in 86 on the affected side whereas on the contralateral side it was abnormal in 2 and normal in 174, which resulted in a strong association ( $P < 0.0001$ ; Fisher's exact test), with 51% sensitivity (CI: 0.435–0.587) and 99% specificity (CI: 0.959–0.999).

**Table 1**

Latency of the masseter inhibitory reflex (mean  $\pm$  SD) in 160 patients with iatrogenic damage to the mandibular nerves

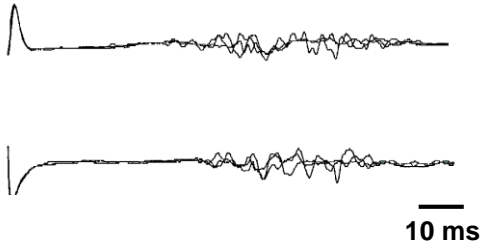
Stimulation site	Affected	Contralateral	$P^*$
Inferior alveolar nerve ( $n = 125$ )	12.0 $\pm$ 1.3	11.3 $\pm$ 0.8	<0.0001
Lingual nerve ( $n = 51$ )	14.3 $\pm$ 2.6	12.9 $\pm$ 1.7	<0.0001

$P^*$   $t$  test with Welch's correction

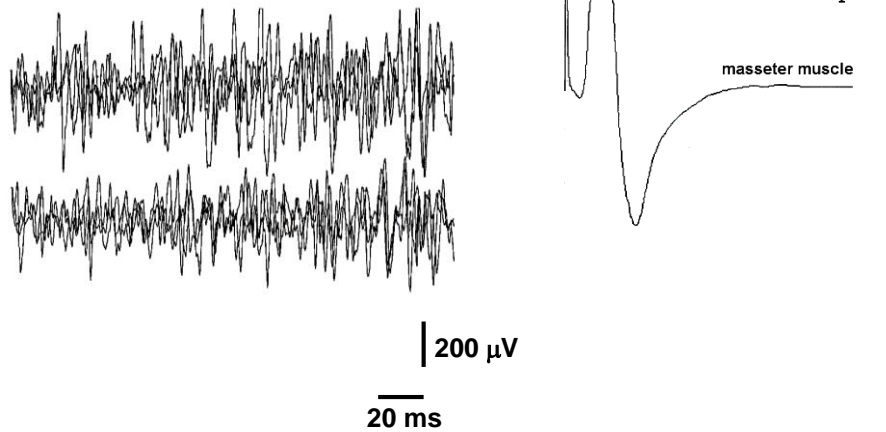
# FOSMN Syndrome

## Patient

### Blink reflex

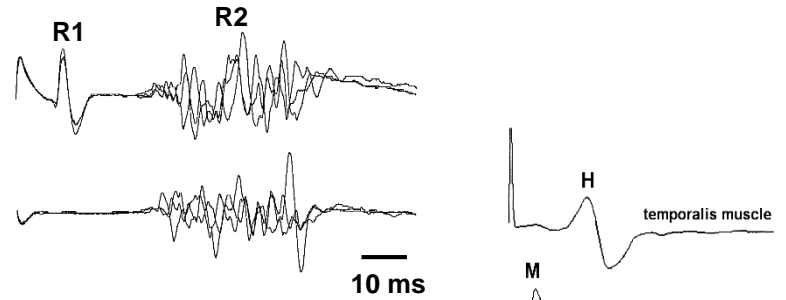


### Masseter inhibitory reflex

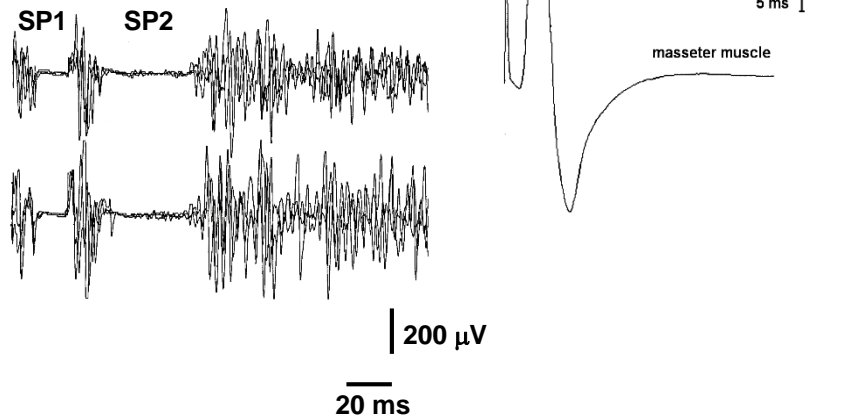


## Normal responses

### Blink reflex

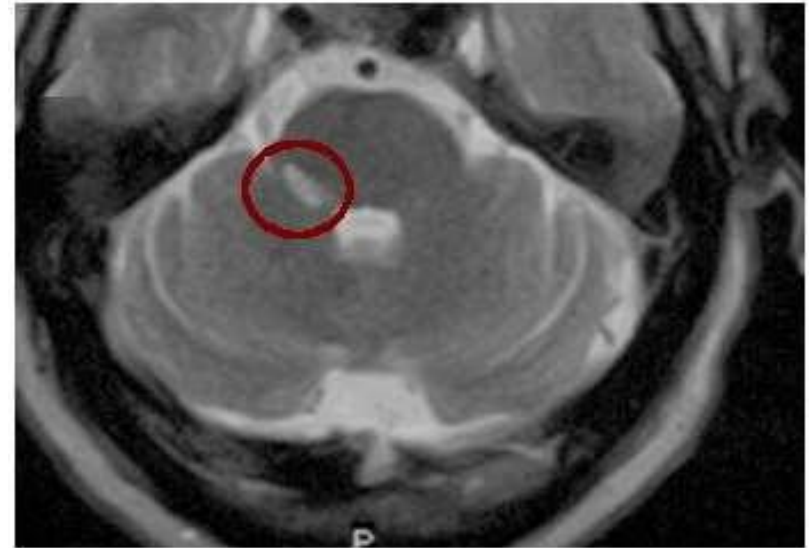
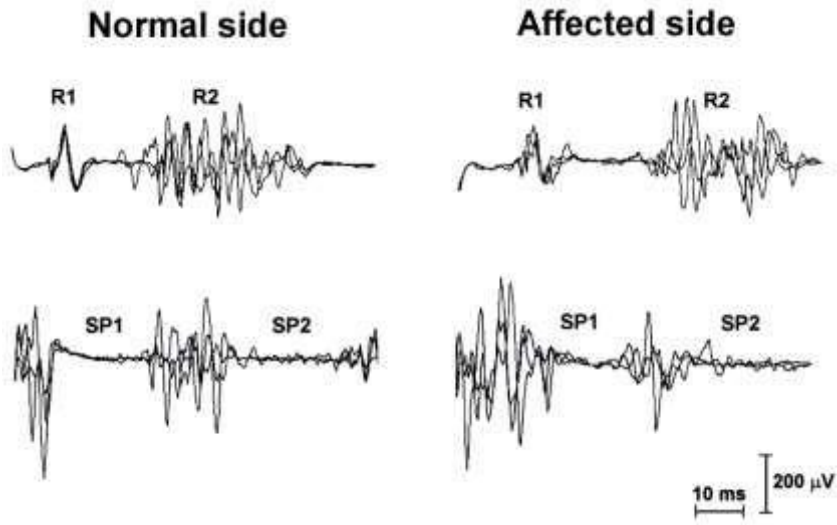


### Masseter inhibitory reflex

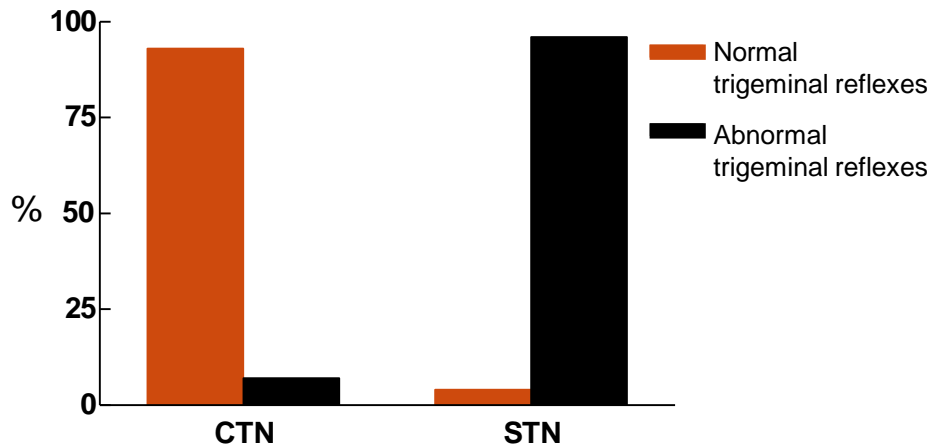


# Trigeminal reflexes in trigeminal neuralgia

## Trigeminal reflexes in Multiple sclerosis



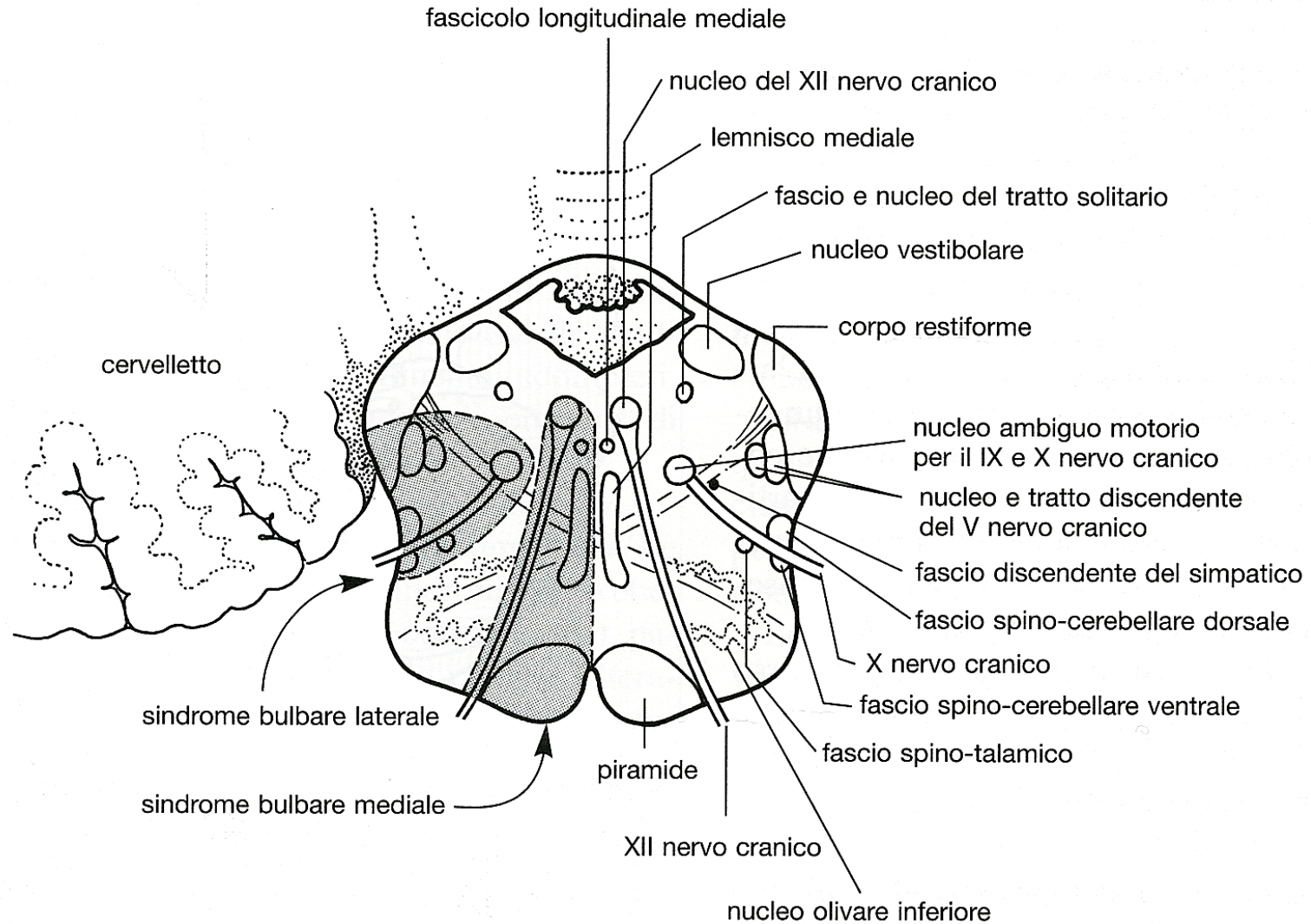
## Findings in 628 patients



## EFNS guidelines on trigeminal neuralgia management

Because of a high specificity (94%) and sensitivity (87%) trigeminal reflexes are recommended in distinguishing STN from CTN.

# Vascularizzazione bulbo

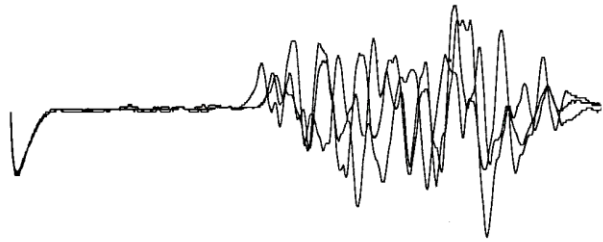


•**Omolateralmente** alla lesione: [sindrome di Bernard-Horner](#), [atassia](#), [ipoestesia](#) facciale termodolorifica, paralisi dell'emivelo, dell'emifaringe e dei muscoli laringei.

•**Controlateralmente** alla lesione: ipoestesia termodolorifica emisoma.

# Wallenberg syndrome

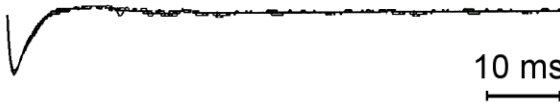
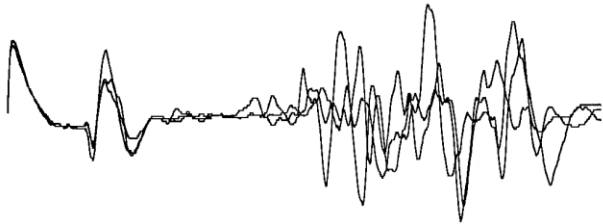
Normal side



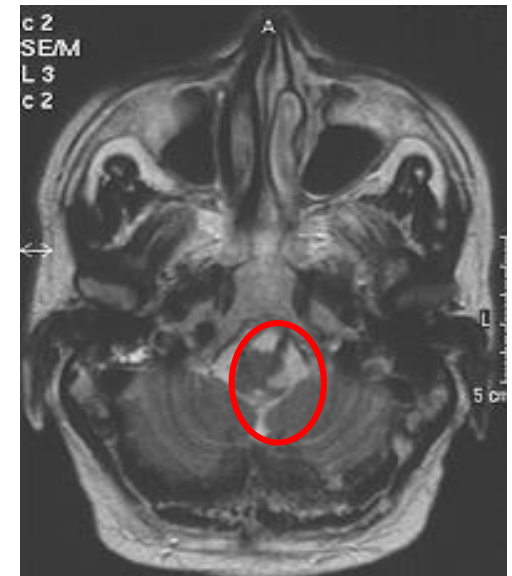
Affected side



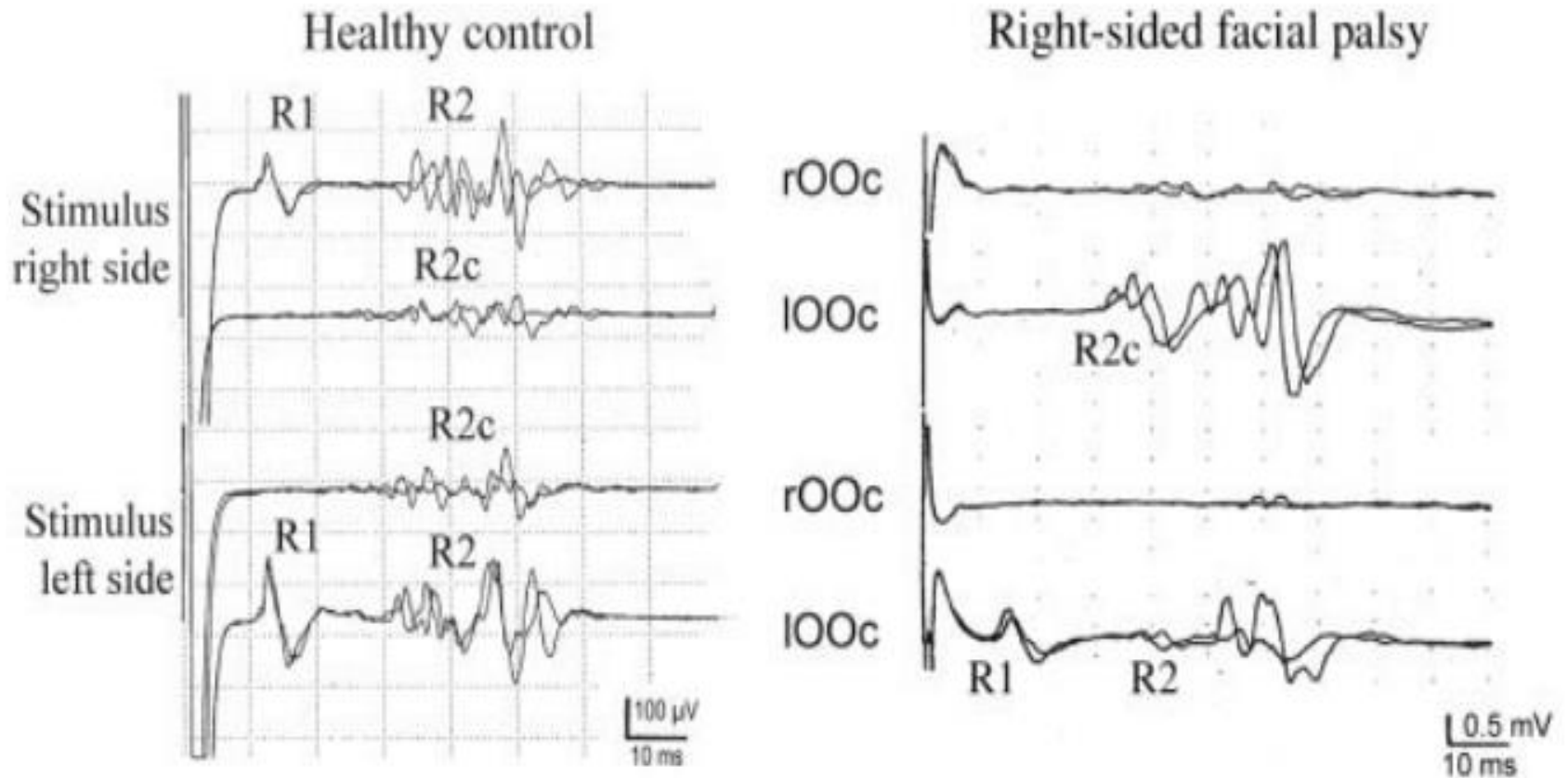
200  $\mu$ V



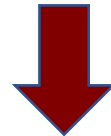
10 ms



# Idiopathic facial palsy



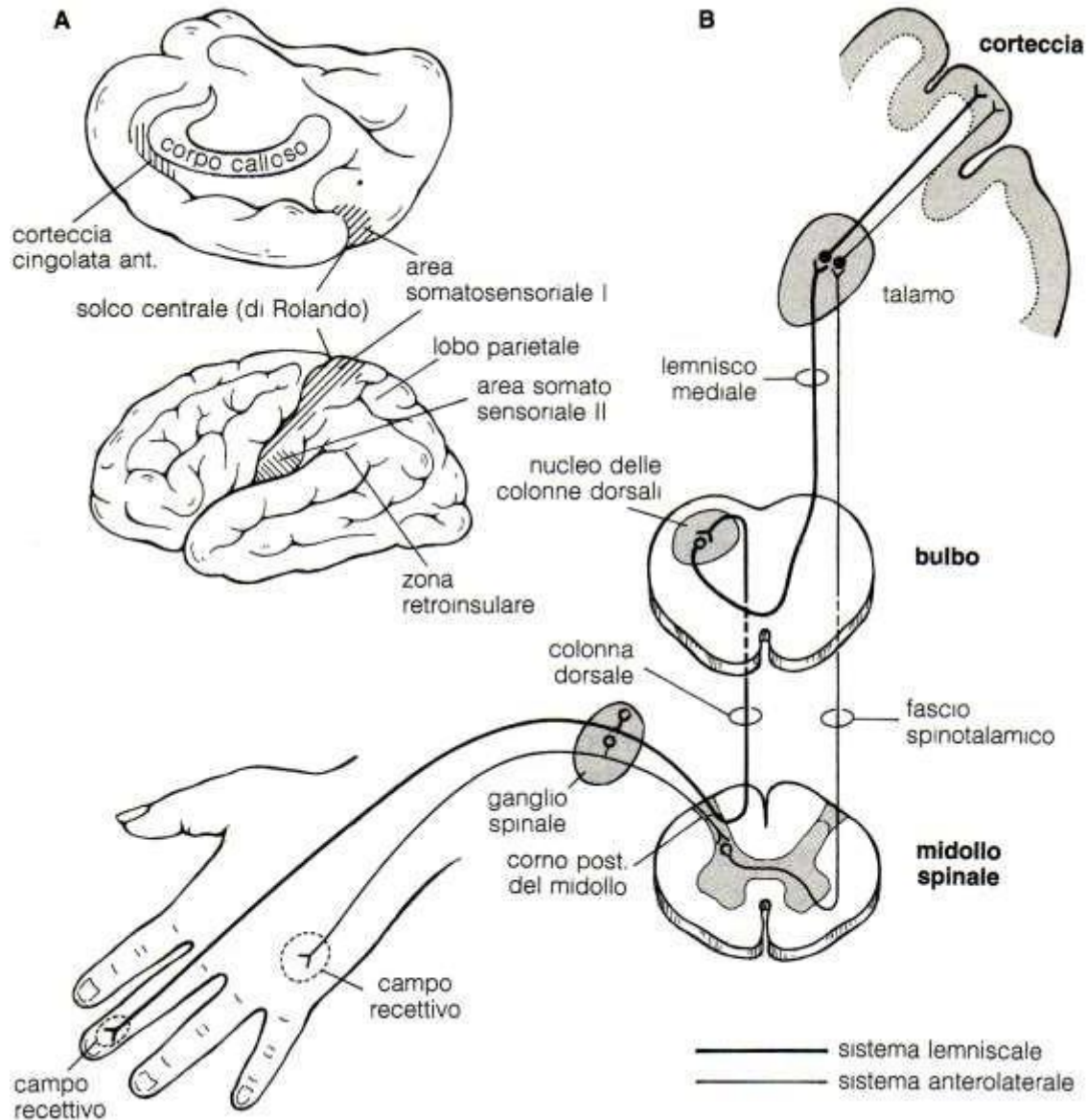
Virtually all patients show abnormalities of the R1 and R2 components in the ipsilateral orbicularis oculi muscle, regardless of the side of the stimulation



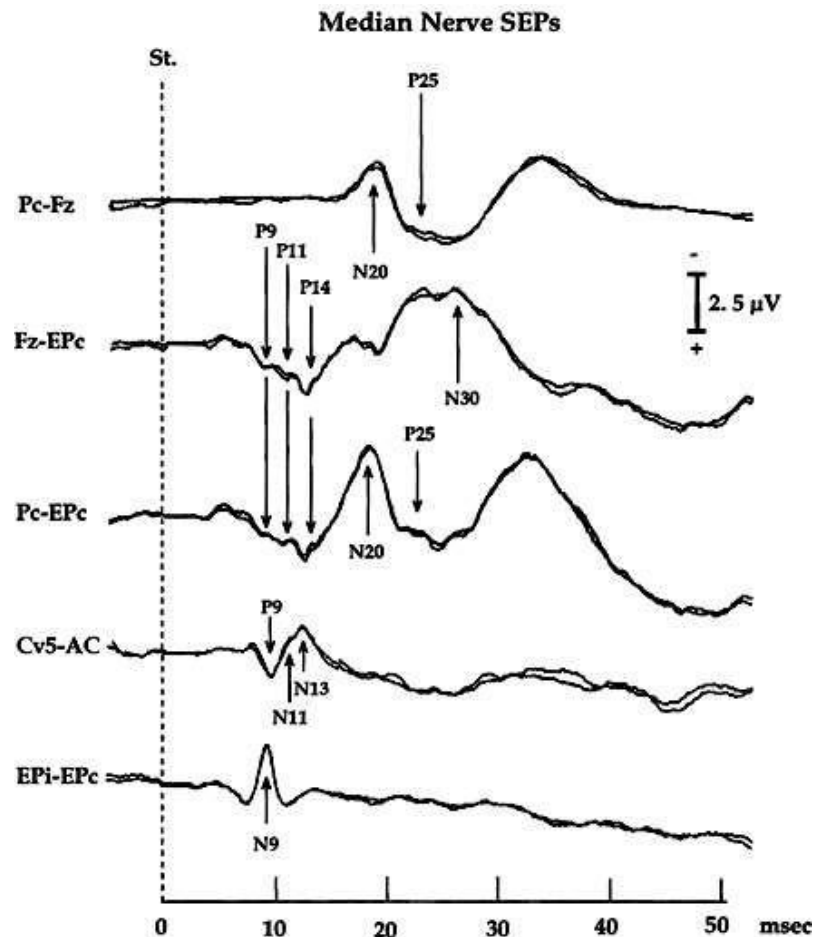
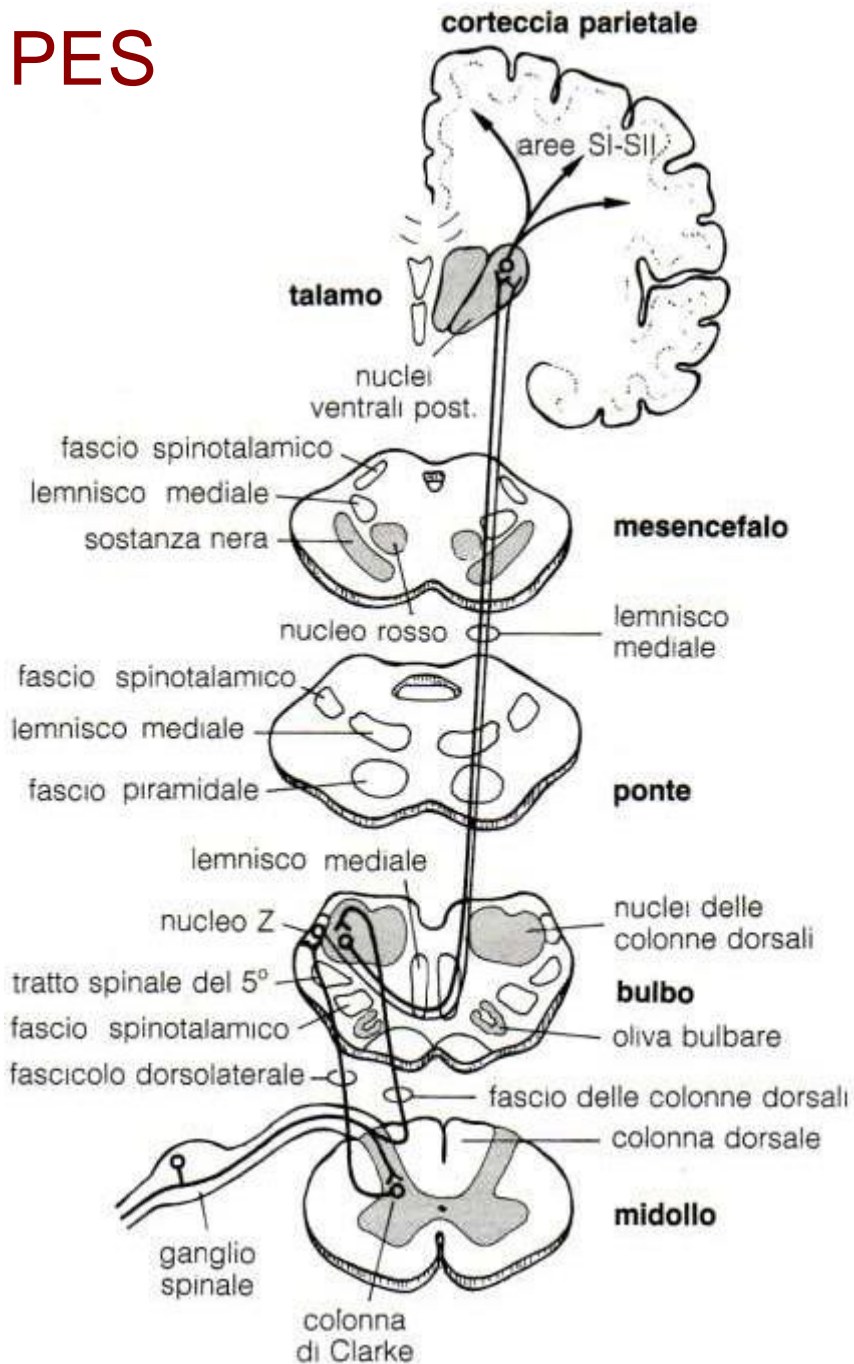
**Efferent Abnormality**



# Sistema nervoso centrale. Studio dei potenziali evocati

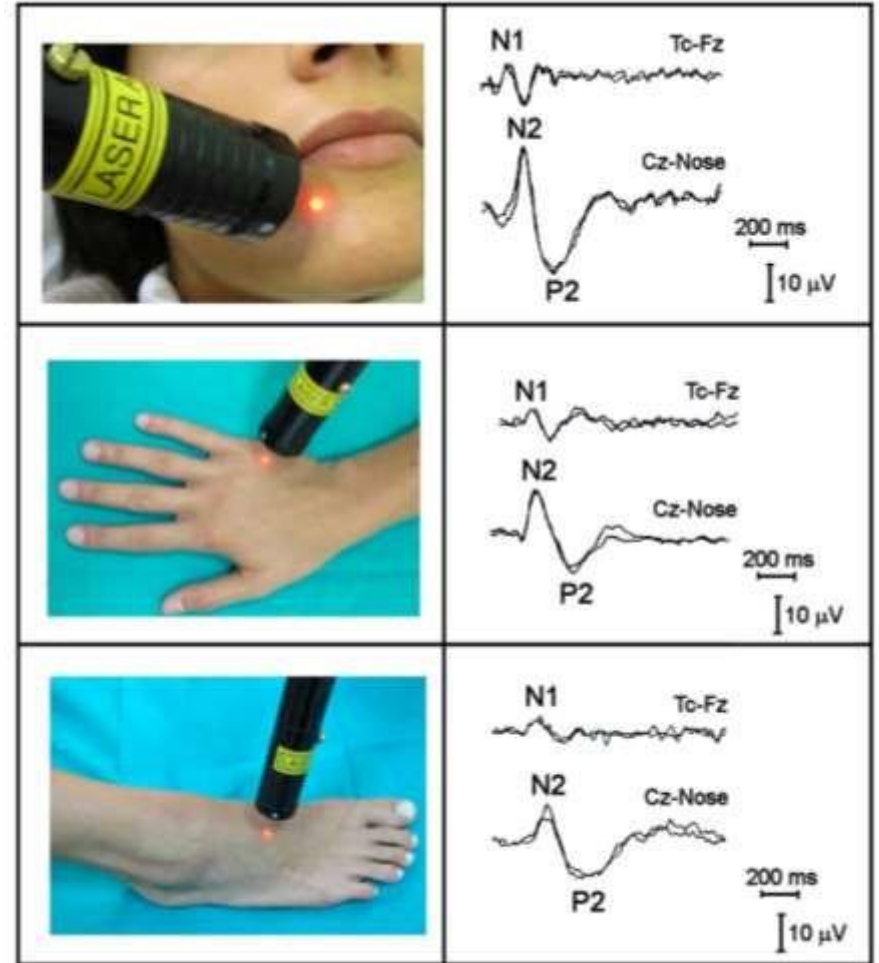
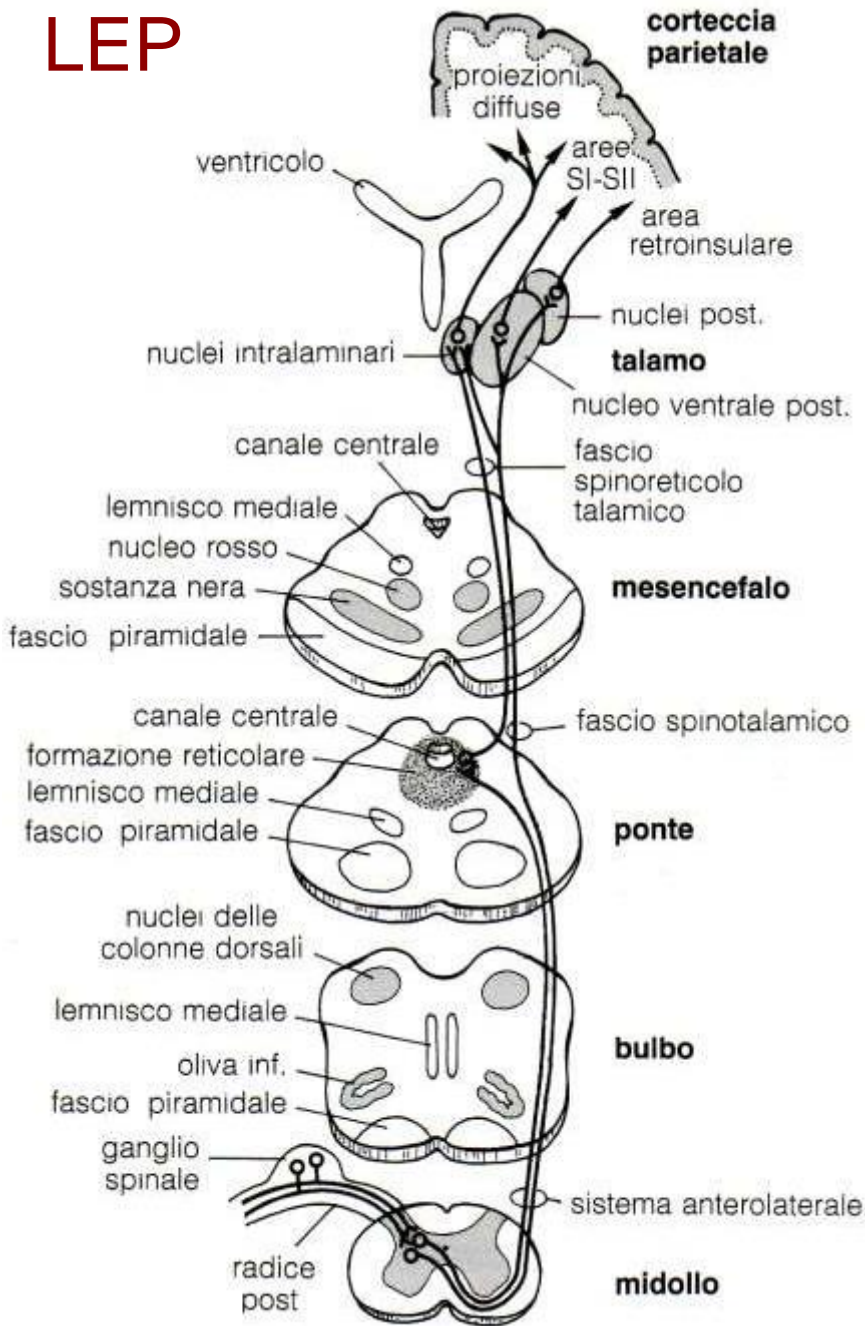


# PES



I PES (potenziali evocati somatosensoriali) sono alterati in ogni patologia in cui ci sia un danno del sistema cordoni posteriori-lemnisco mediale.

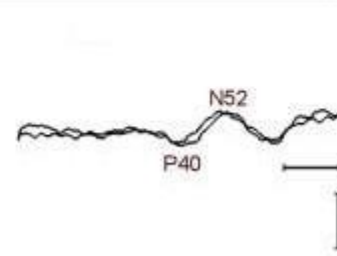
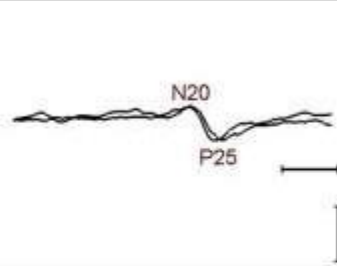
# LEP



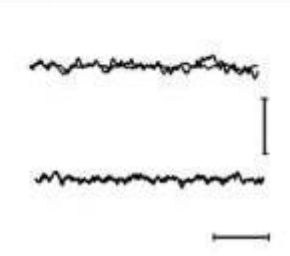
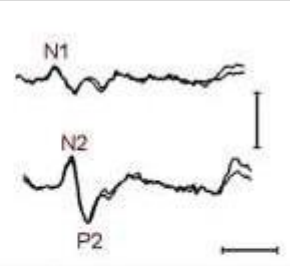
Spinal MRI



Somatosensory evoked potentials



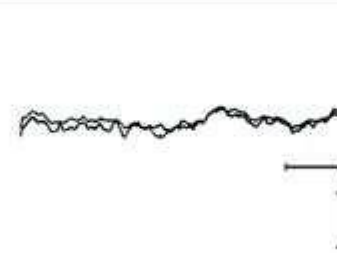
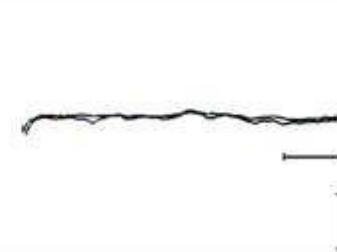
Laser evoked potentials



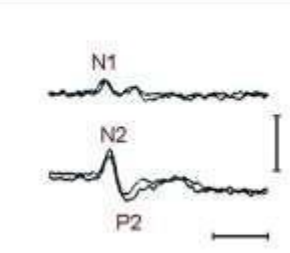
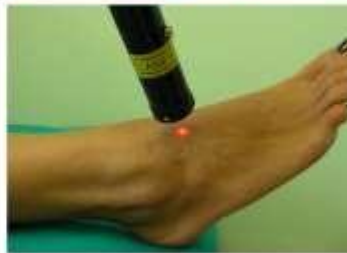
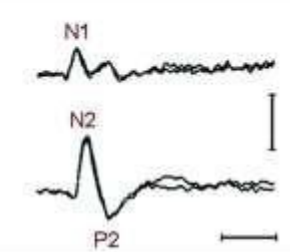
Spinal MRI



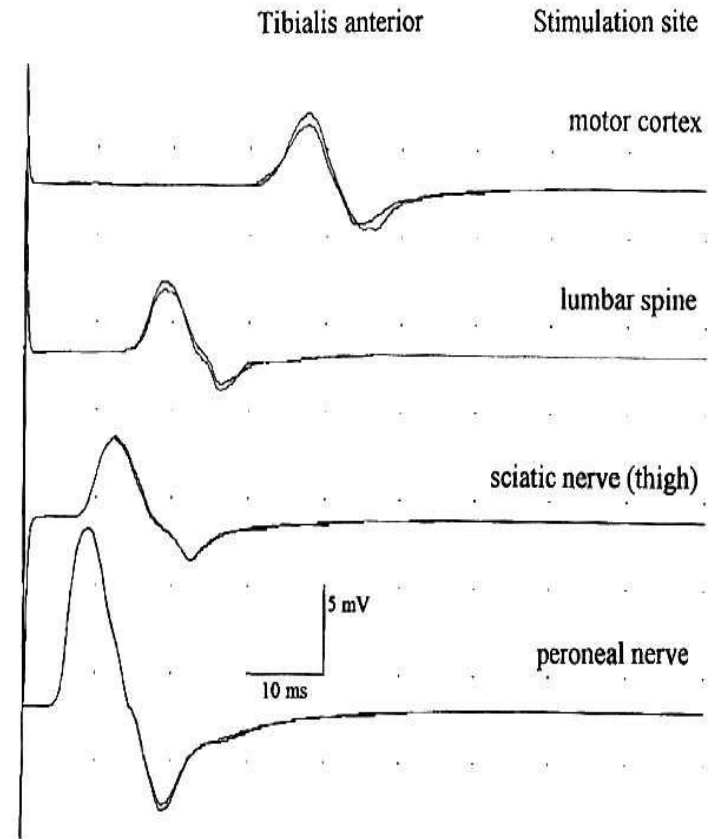
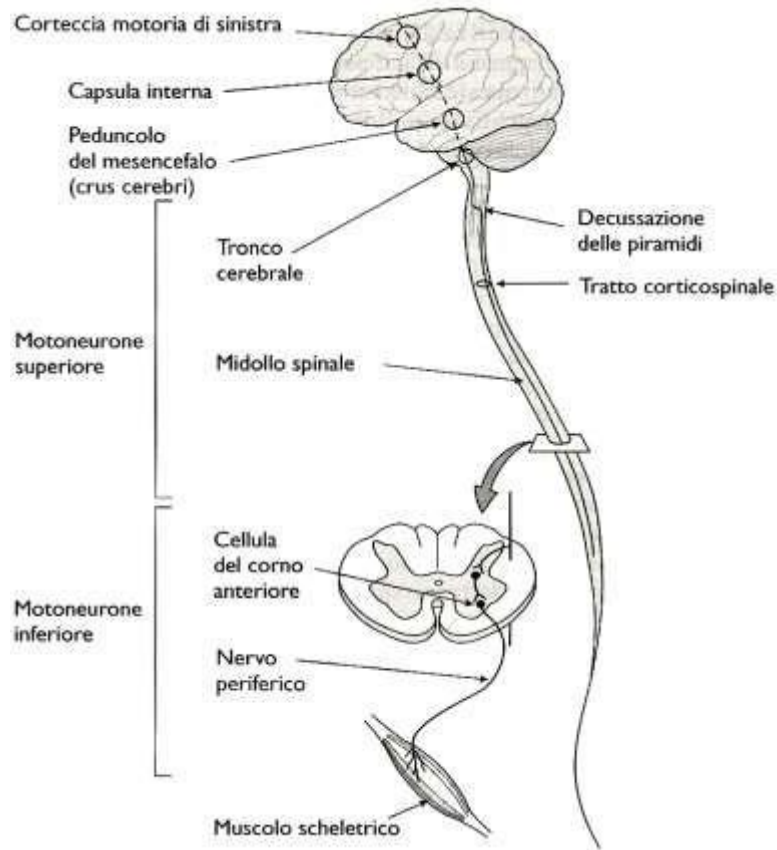
Somatosensory evoked potentials



Laser evoked potentials

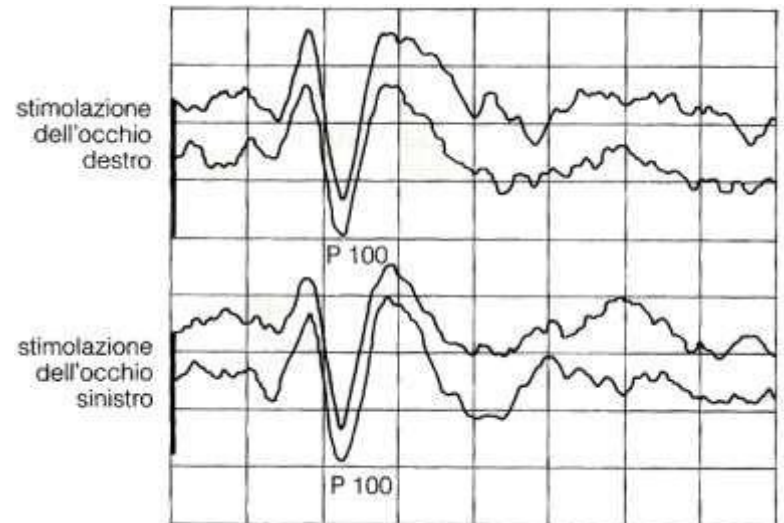
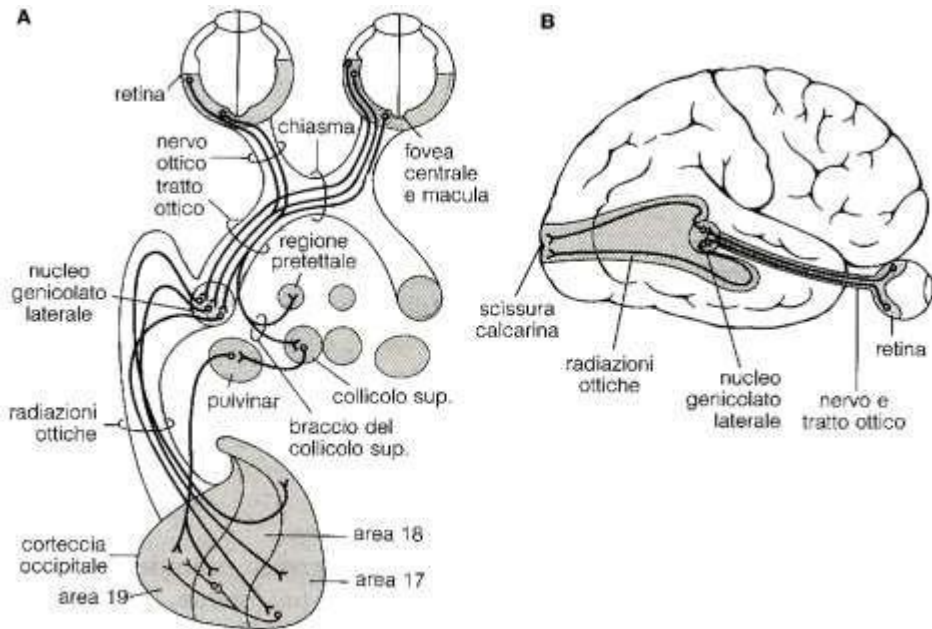


# MEP

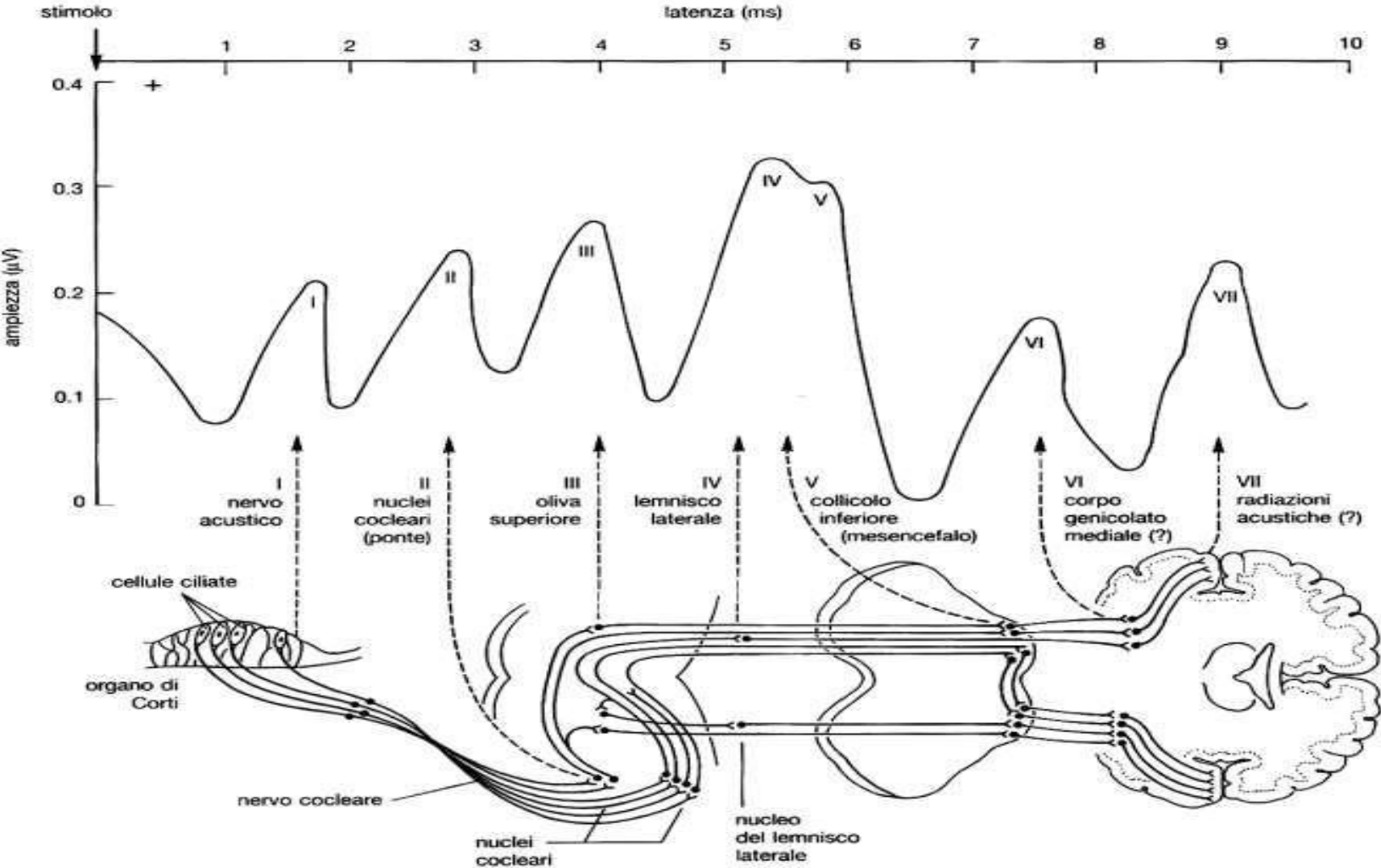


Lo stimolo magnetico attiva la corteccia motoria ed evoca potenziali evocati motori che vengono registrati nella muscolatura degli arti.

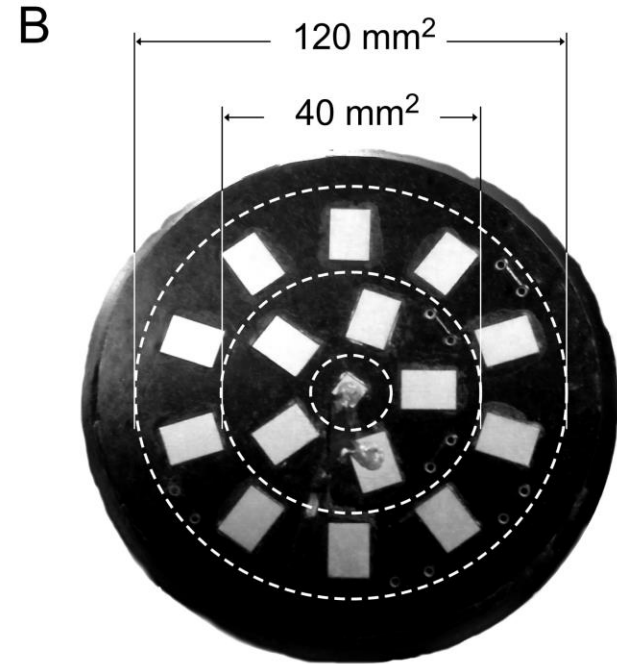
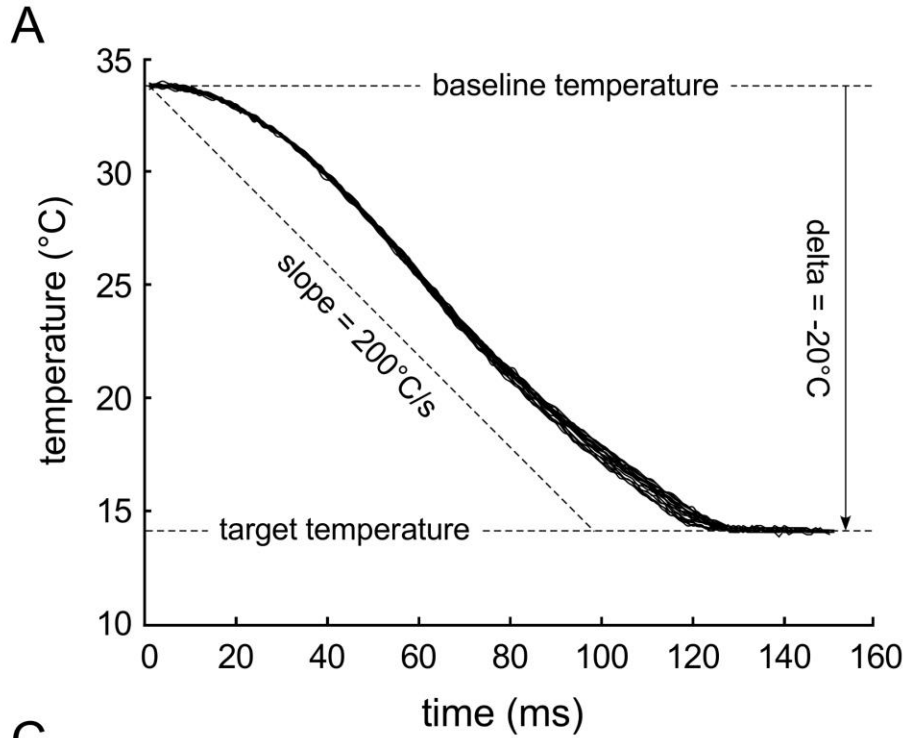
# PEV



# BAEPs



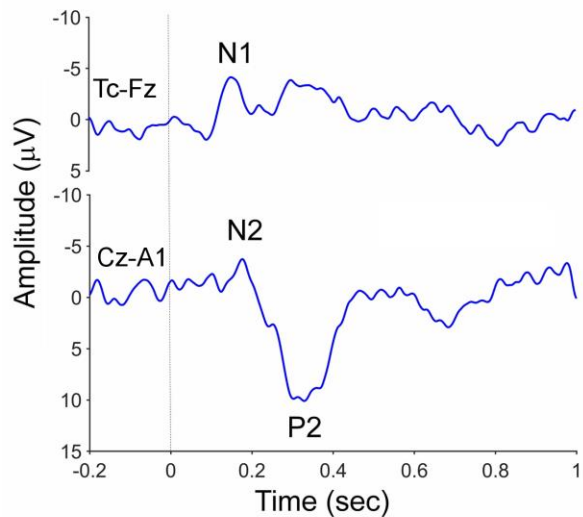
# Cold evoked potentials



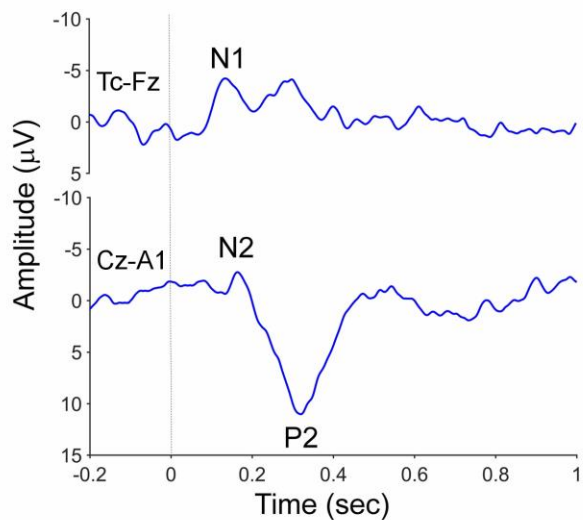
**C**



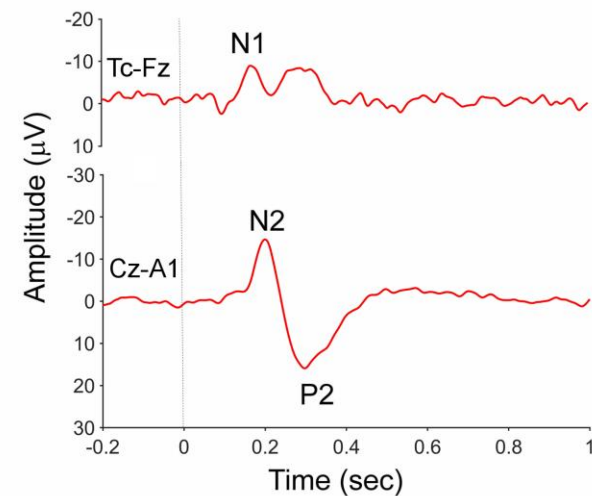
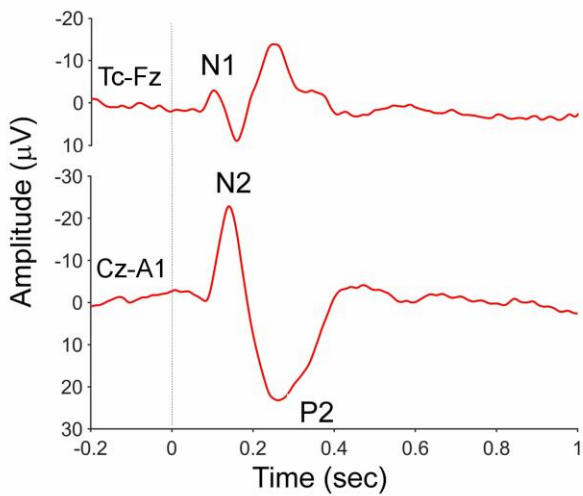
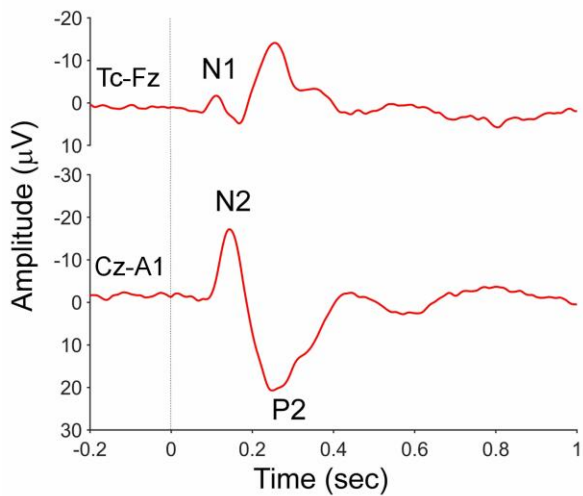
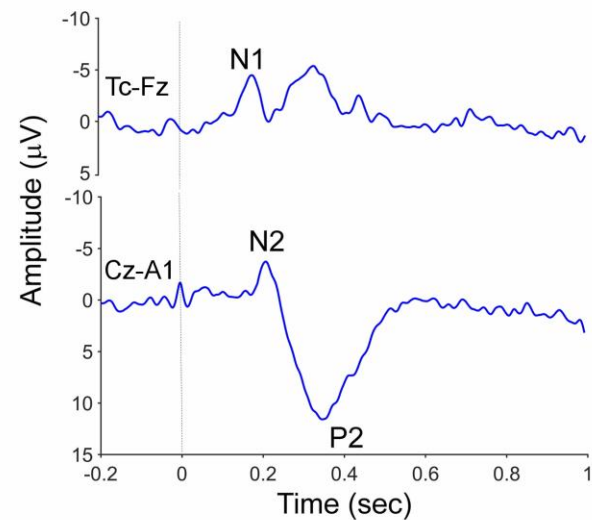
## Supraorbital stimulation



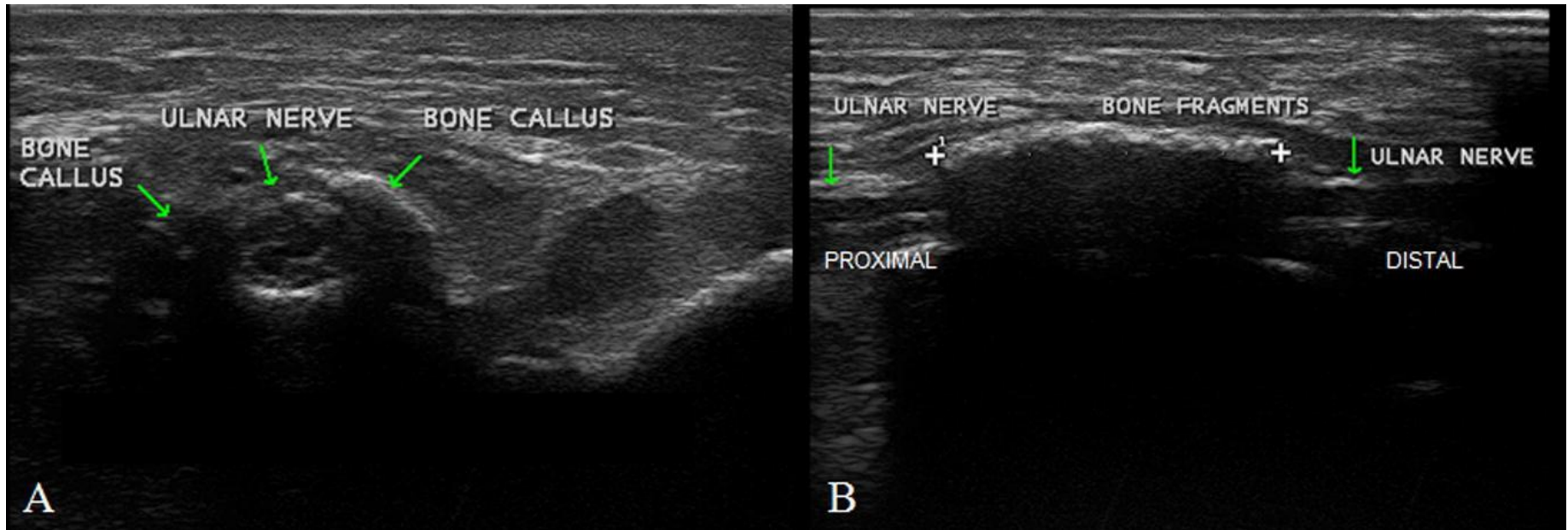
## Perioral stimulation



## Hand stimulation



# Ecografia di nervo



**ENG:** Ulnar nerve sensory responses were absent. Ulnar motor nerve conduction studies, recorded from first dorsal interosseus and abductor digiti minimi, showed reduced motor nerve action potential amplitude and neuroapraxic block associated with severe slowing of conduction velocity ( $6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) in the above-below elbow trAt US evaluation, the ulnar nerve was normal at the elbow but could not be seen distally. After careful evaluation, we realised that the nerve entered a hyperechoic tunnel likely to be the callus osseus; longitudinally, the hyperechoic structure had a maximum length of 17 mm. Distal to this structure, the ulnar nerve was visible again, appearing hypoechoic and with increased volume (CSA:  $16 \text{ mm}^2$ ).act (stimulating the nerve 4 cm above and below elbow). Motor conduction velocity was normal in the arm and the forearm.

Grazie per l'attenzione!