

# Brief Introduction to spinal electrical stimulation

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J Guest MD, PhD

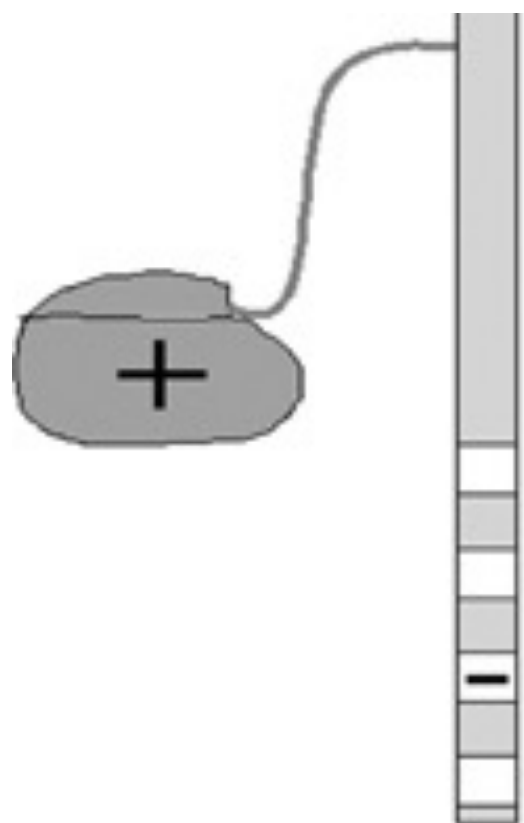
Professor of Neurological Surgery

University of Miami Miller School of  
Medicine



MILLER SCHOOL  
of MEDICINE



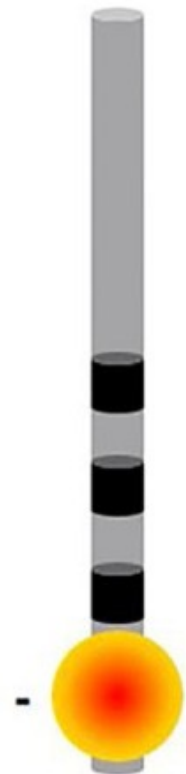


**Monopolar**



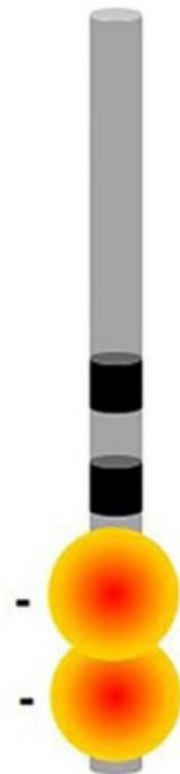
**Bipolar**

+ IPG

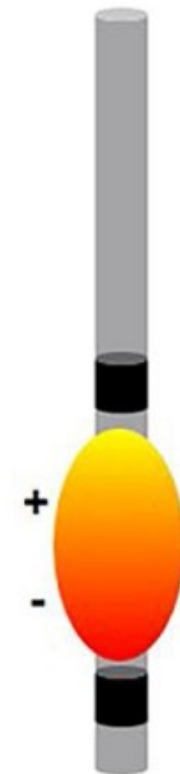


**Monopolar**  
Single  
Negative  
(Cathode)  
Contact

+ IPG



**Double  
Monopolar**  
Two  
Negative  
(Cathode)  
Contacts

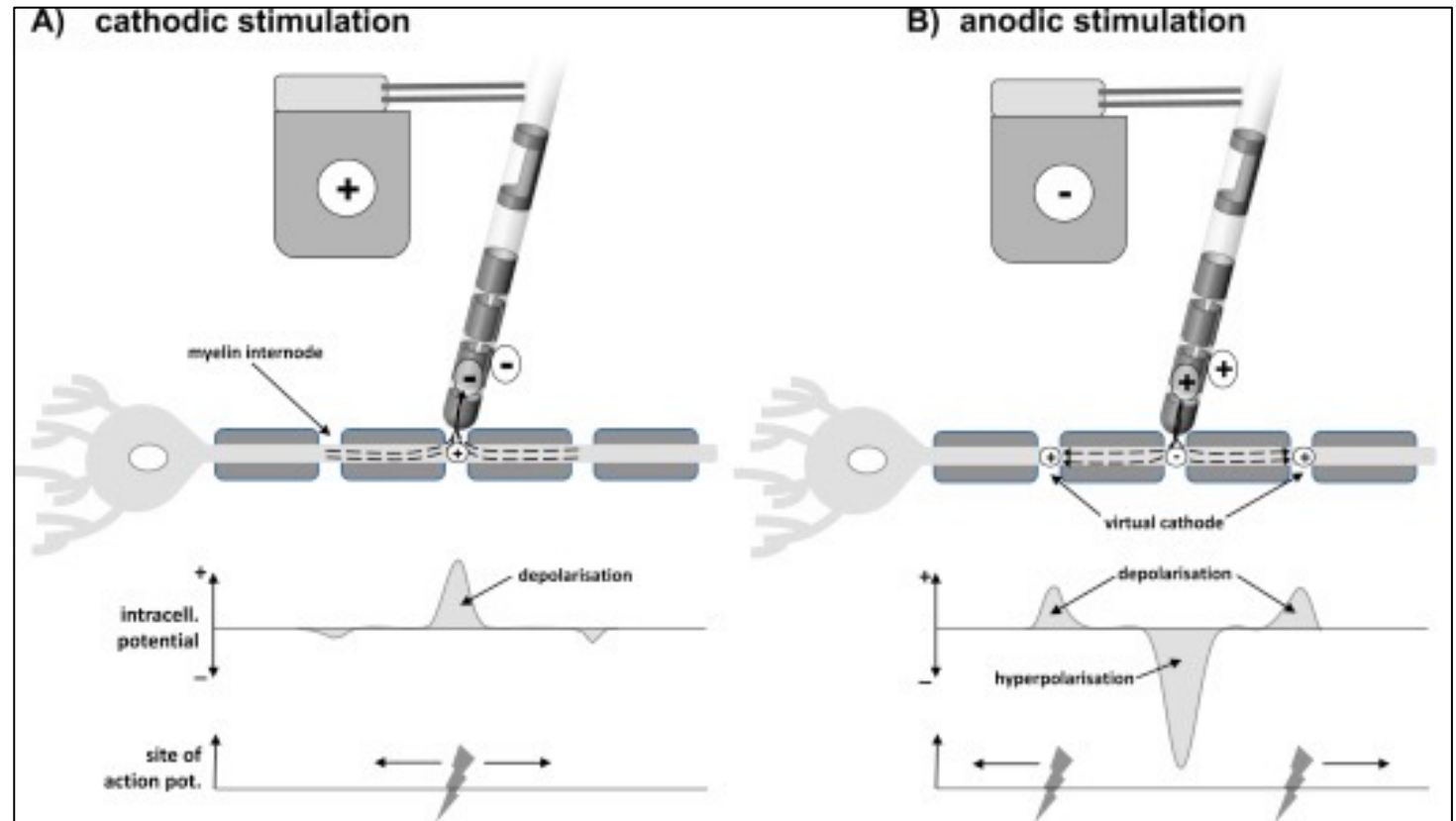


**Bipolar 1**  
Single  
Positive  
(Anode)  
Contact



**Bipolar 2**  
Single  
Positive  
(Anode)  
Contact

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- Kirsch, A. D., S. Hassin-Baer, C. Matthies, J. Volkmann and F. Steigerwald (2018). "Anodic versus cathodic neurostimulation of the subthalamic nucleus: A randomized-controlled study of acute clinical effects." Parkinsonism & Related Disorders **55**: 61-67.



# Basic Biophysics of Axons

- Membrane resistance ( $r_m$ ) decreases with increasing radius ( $r$ )
- Axial resistance ( $R_i$ ) decreases with  $r^2$
- Length constant = Square root MR/AR

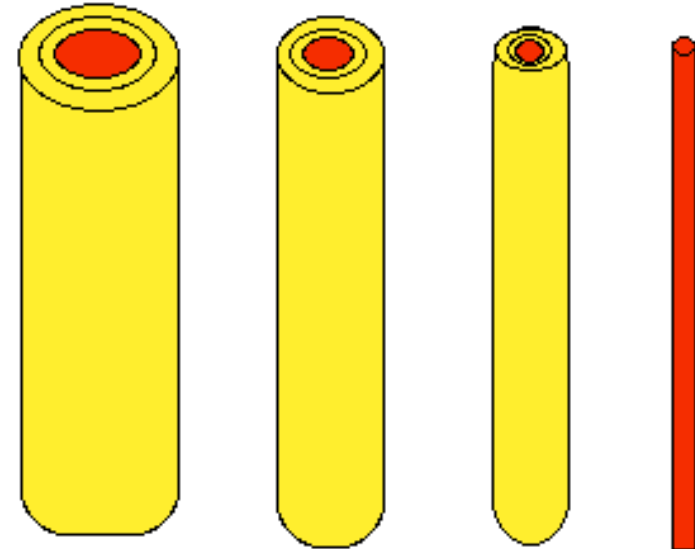
*LENGTH CONSTANT*

$$\lambda = \sqrt{\frac{r_M}{r_I}}$$

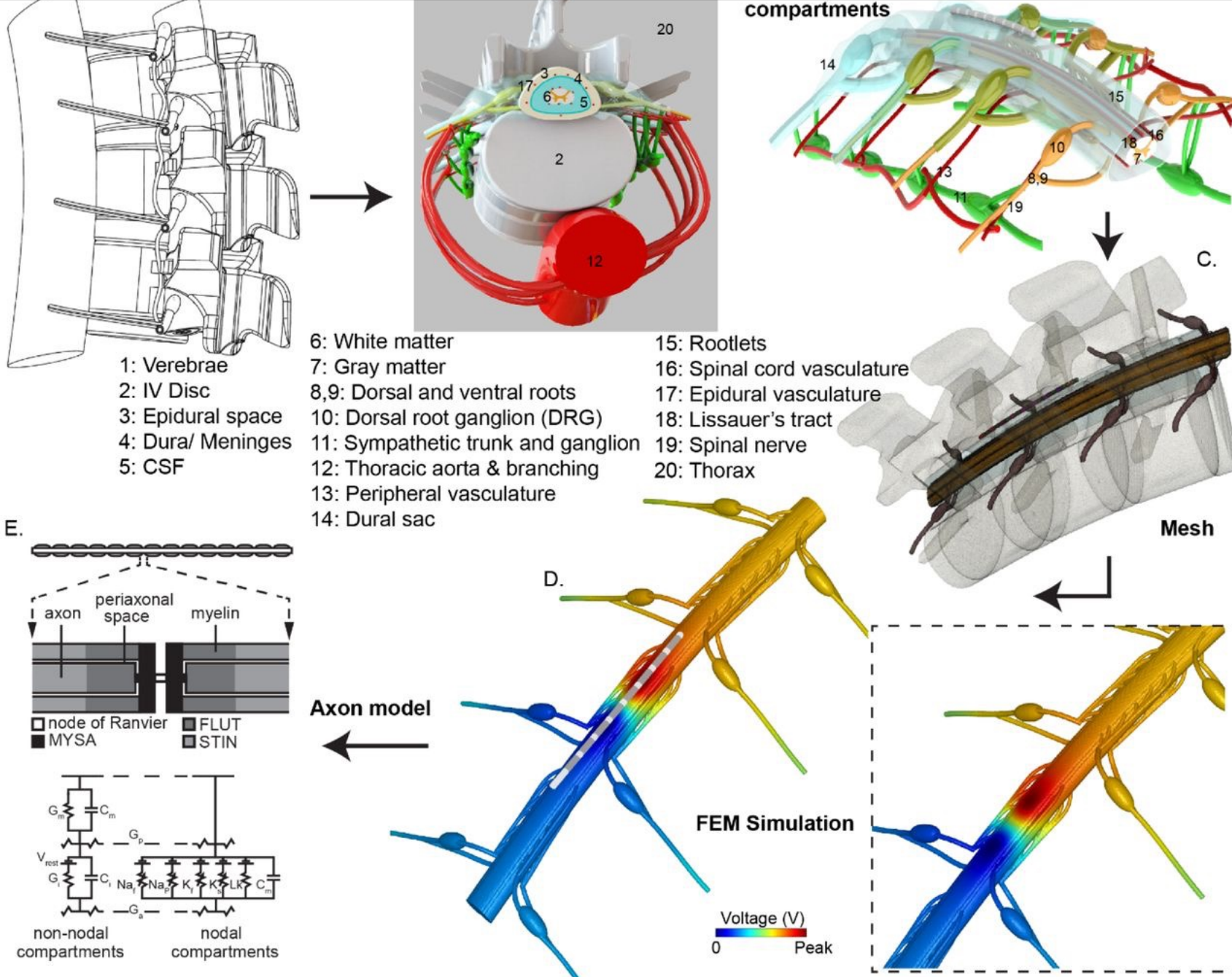
*RESISTANCE OF NEURON MEMBRANE*

*INTERNAL NEURON RESISTANCE*

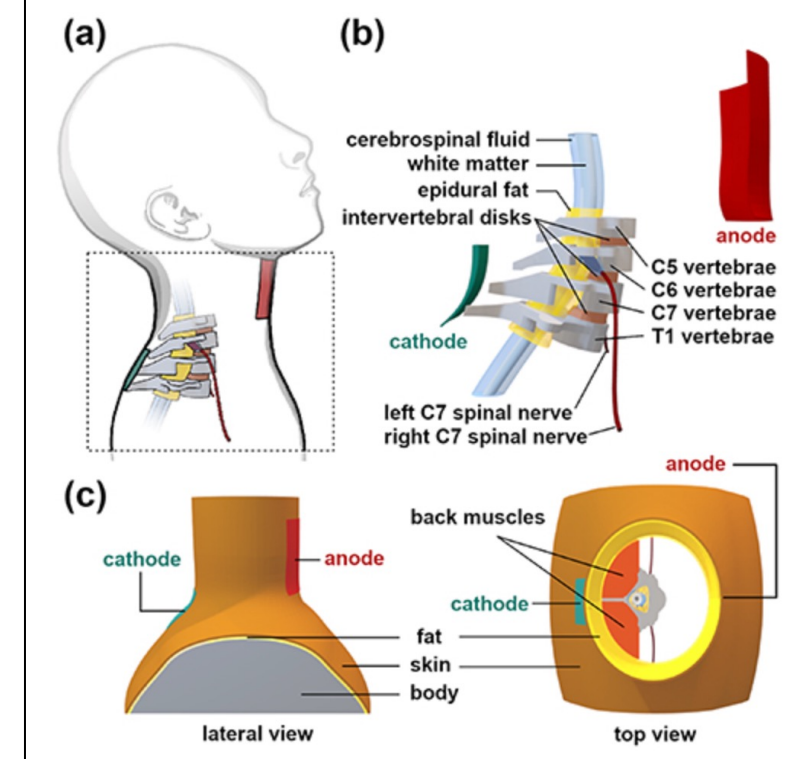
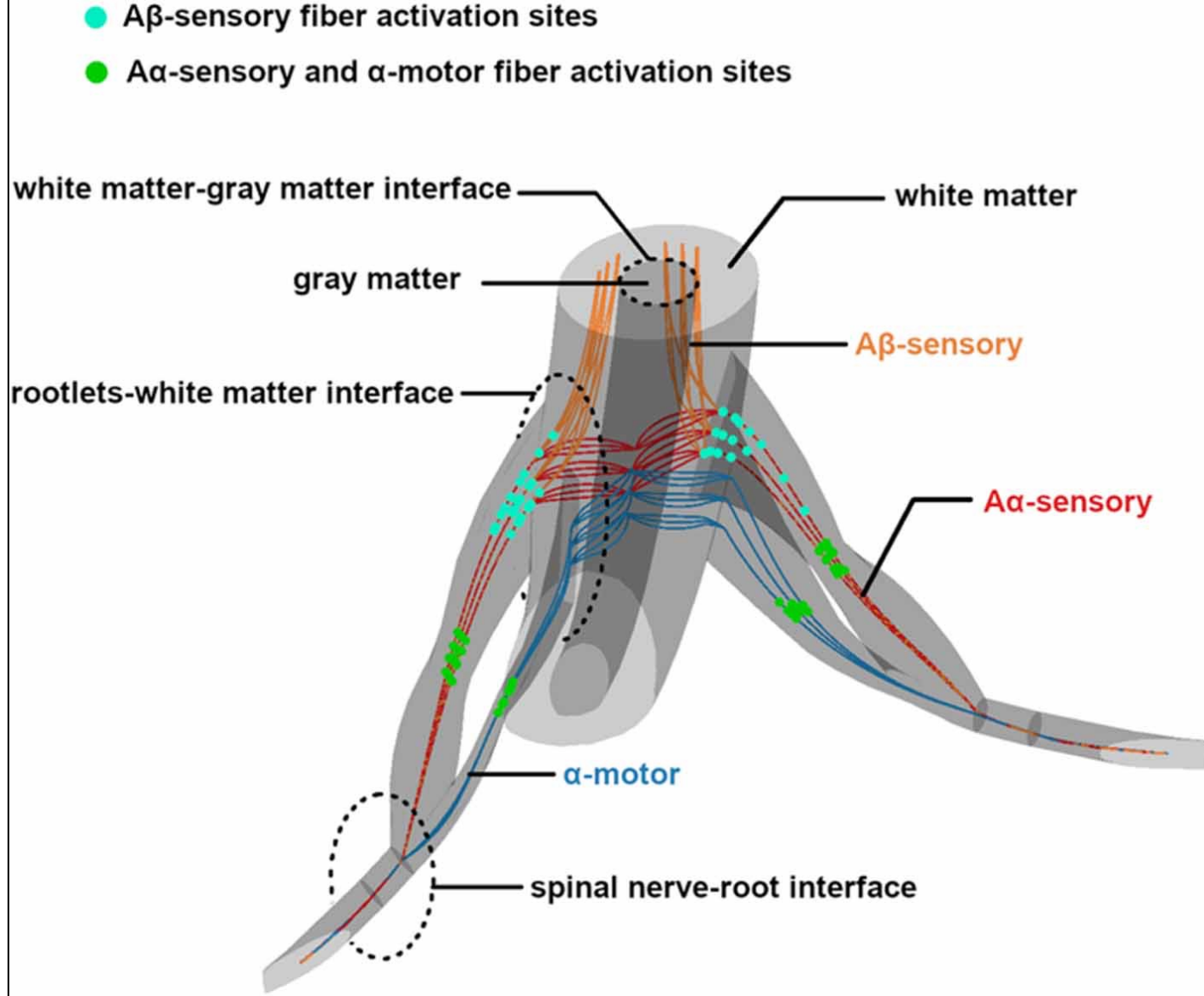
## Primary Afferent Axons



Axon Type	A $\alpha$	A $\beta$	A $\delta$	C
Diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	13-20	6-12	1-5	.2-1.5
Speed (m/s)	80-120	35-75	5-35	.5-2.0



Khadka, N., X. Liu, H. Zander, J. Swami, E. Rogers, S. F. Lempka and M. Bikson (2020). "Realistic anatomically detailed open-source spinal cord stimulation (RADO-SCS) model." *J Neural Eng* 17(2): 026033.



de Freitas, R. M., M. Capogrosso, T. Nomura and M. Milosevic (2022). "Preferential activation of proprioceptive and cutaneous sensory fibers compared to motor fibers during cervical transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation: a computational study." *J Neural Eng* **19**(3).

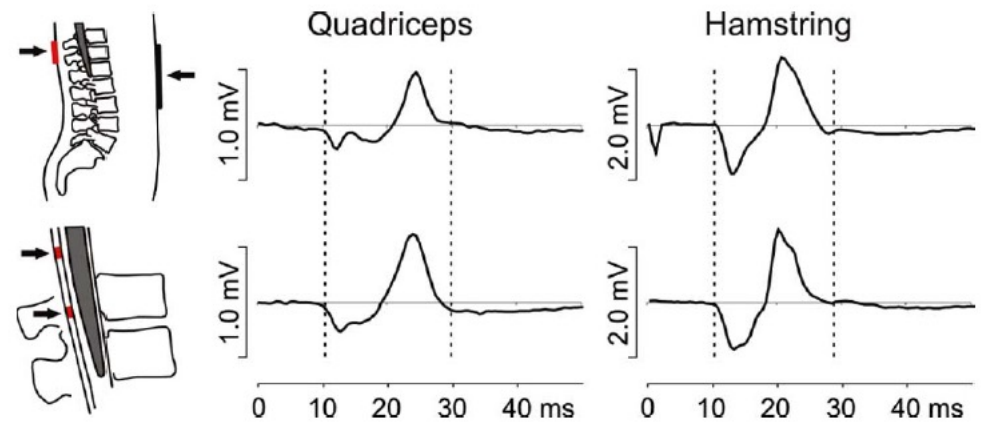
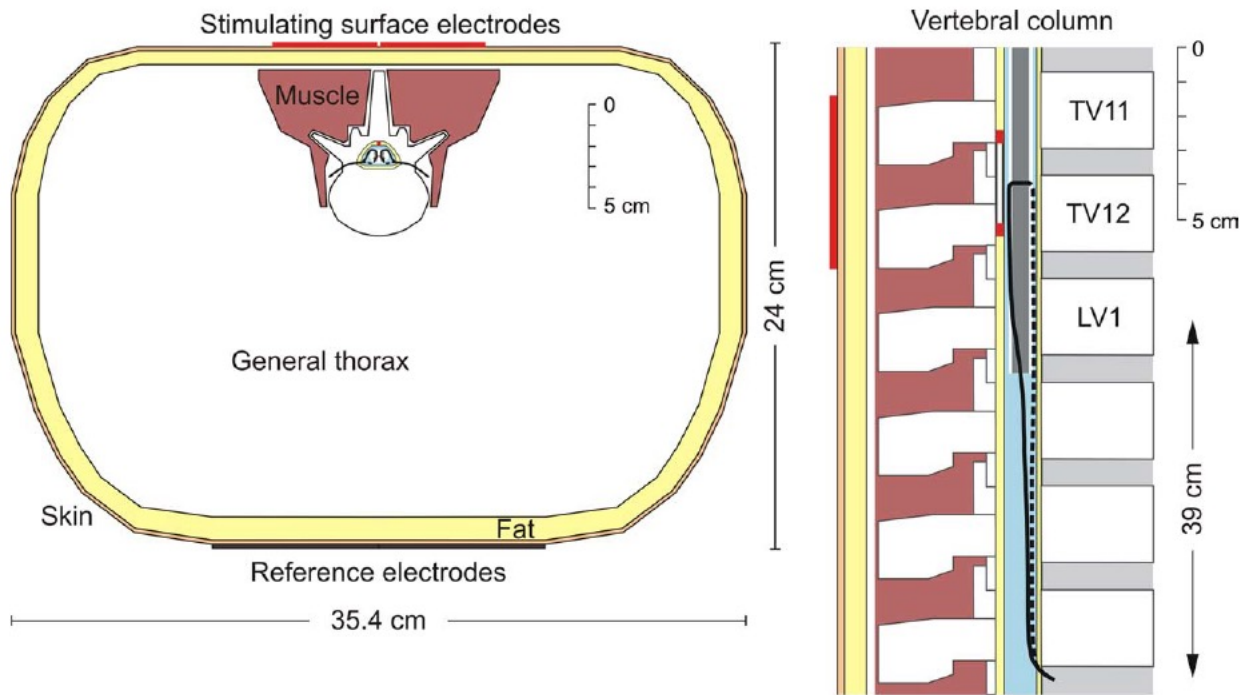
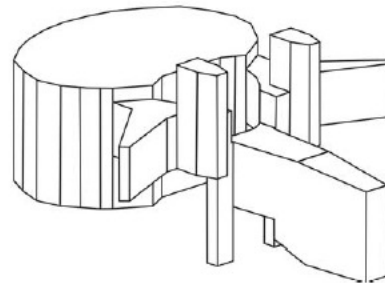
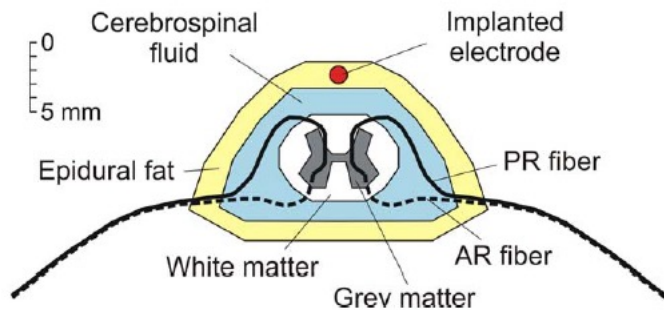
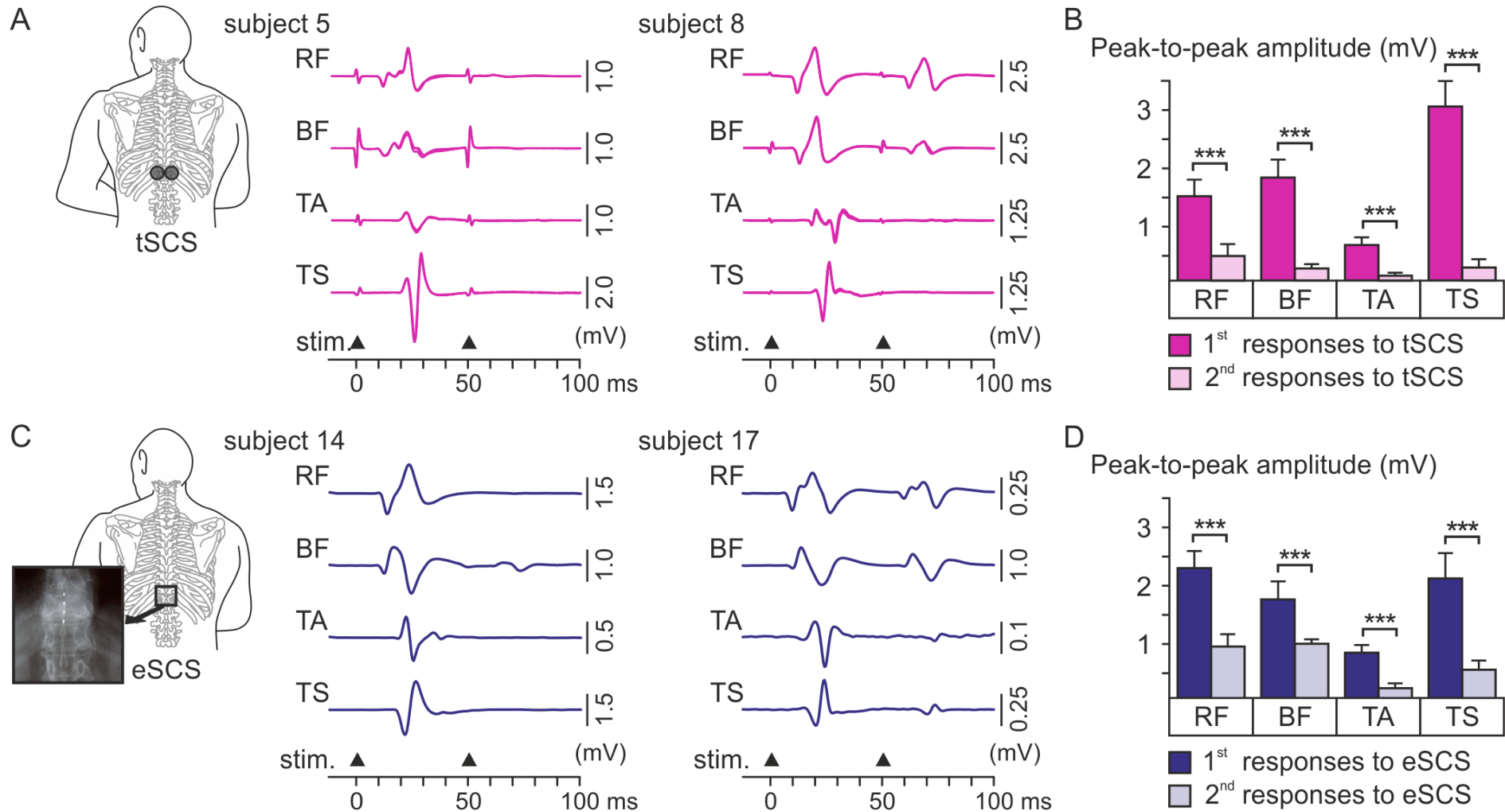


Fig. 1. Comparison of PRM reflexes in response to tSCS (top) and eSCS (bottom) elicited during the same EMG recording session in a spinal cord injured subject [13]. Dashed lines indicate on- and offsets of the EMG responses; arrows mark the electrodes.

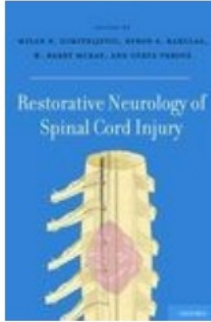


Ladenbauer, J., K. Minassian, U. S. Hofstoetter, M. R. Dimitrijevic and F. Rattay (2010). **"Stimulation of the human lumbar spinal cord with implanted and surface electrodes: a computer simulation study."** *IEEE Trans Neural Syst Rehabil Eng* 18(6): 637-645.



Hofstoetter, U. S., B. Freundl, H. Binder and K. Minassian (2018). "Common neural structures activated by epidural and transcutaneous lumbar spinal cord stimulation: Elicitation of posterior root-muscle reflexes." *PLoS One* **13**(1): e0192013.





## Restorative Neurology of Spinal Cord Injury

Milan R. Dimitrijevic (ed.) et al.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199746507.001.0001>

**Published:** 2011

**Online ISBN:** 9780199918768

**Print ISBN:** 9780199746507

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### CHAPTER

## 10 Transcutaneous Lumbar Posterior Root Stimulation for Motor Control Studies and Modification of Motor Activity after Spinal Cord Injury

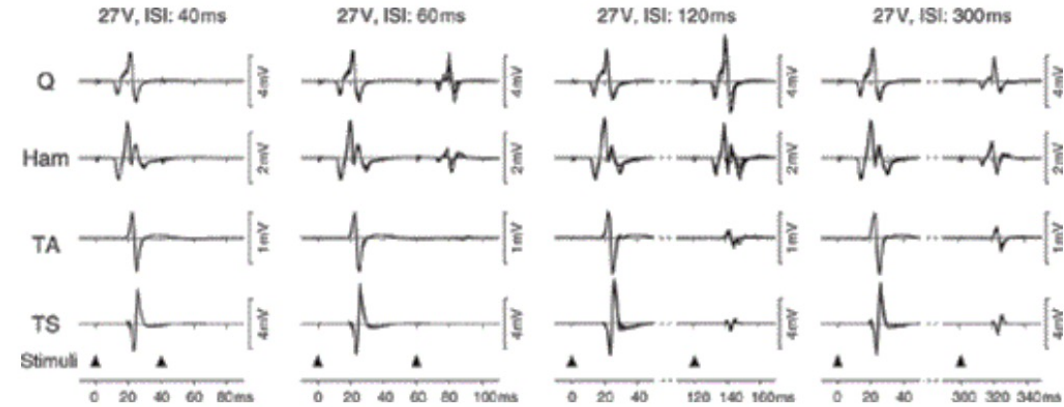
Karen Minassian, Ursula Hofstoetter, Frank Rattay

<https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199746507.003.0010> Pages 226–255

**Published:** December 2011

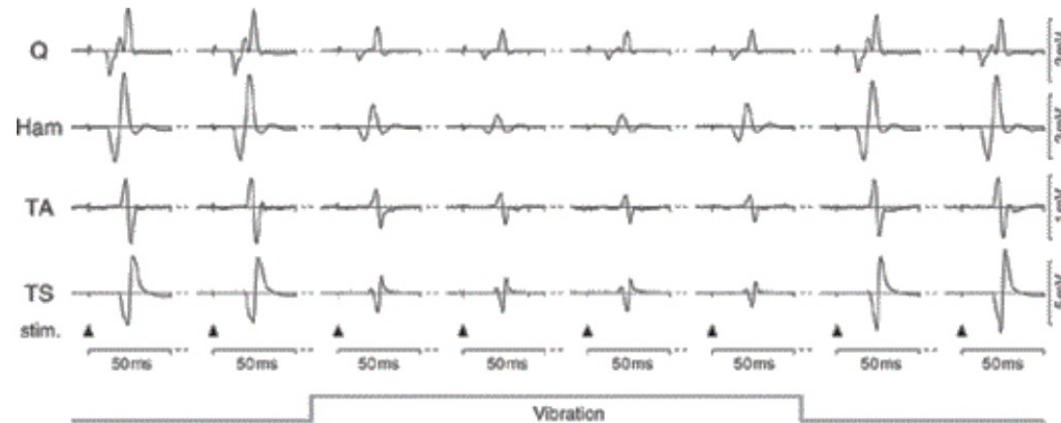
## Posterior Root Motor Reflex

**Figure 10-5**



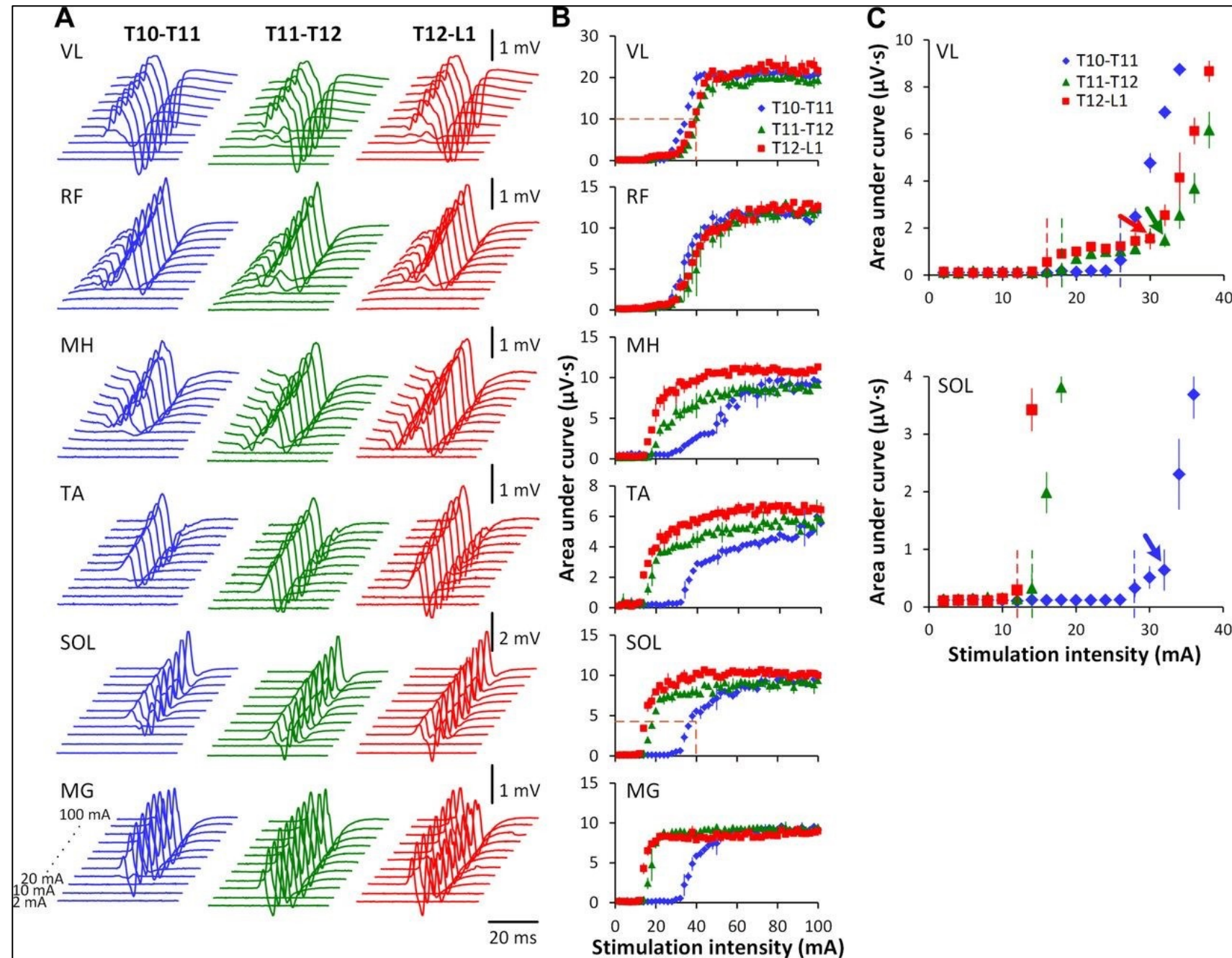
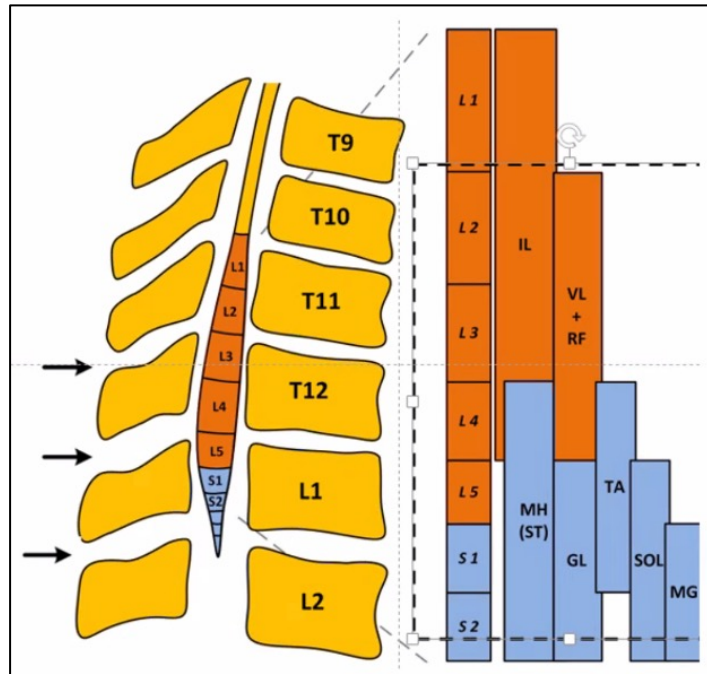
Posterior root-muscle reflexes of quadriceps (Q), hamstrings (Ham), tibialis anterior (TA), and triceps surae (TS) elicited by paired stimuli of same intensity delivered at different inter-stimulus intervals (ISI). Five stimulus-triggered traces are shown superimposed for each muscle and condition. Recordings derived from a subject with intact nervous system while supine.

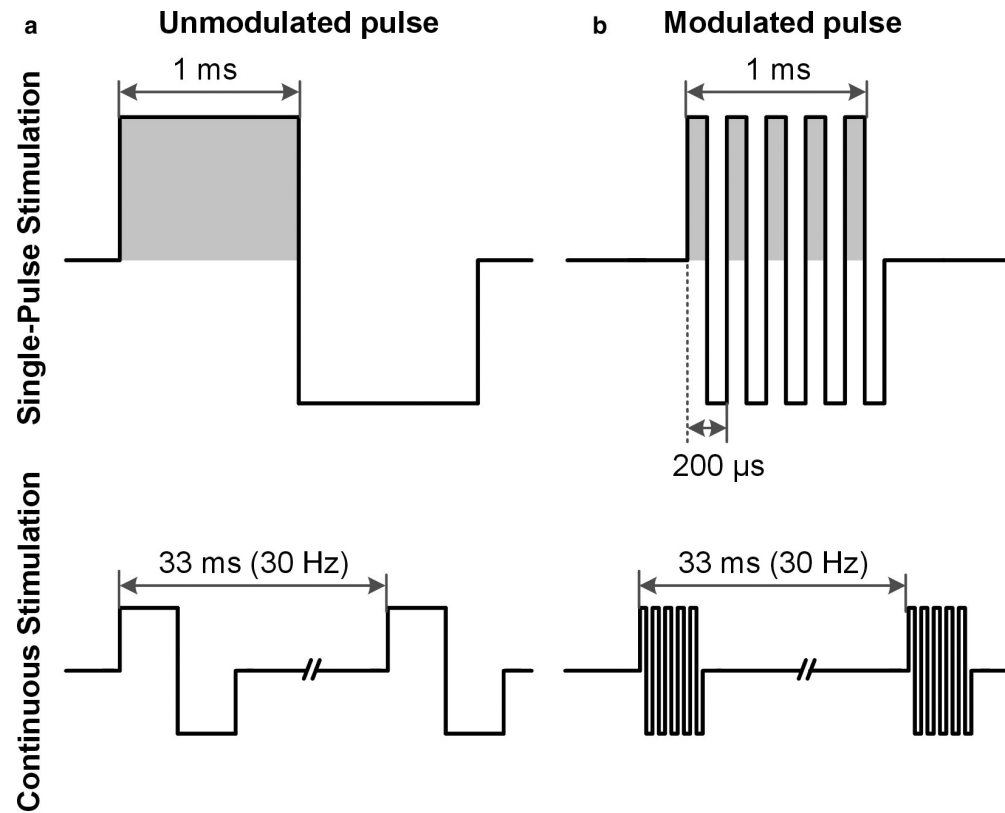
**Figure 10-6**



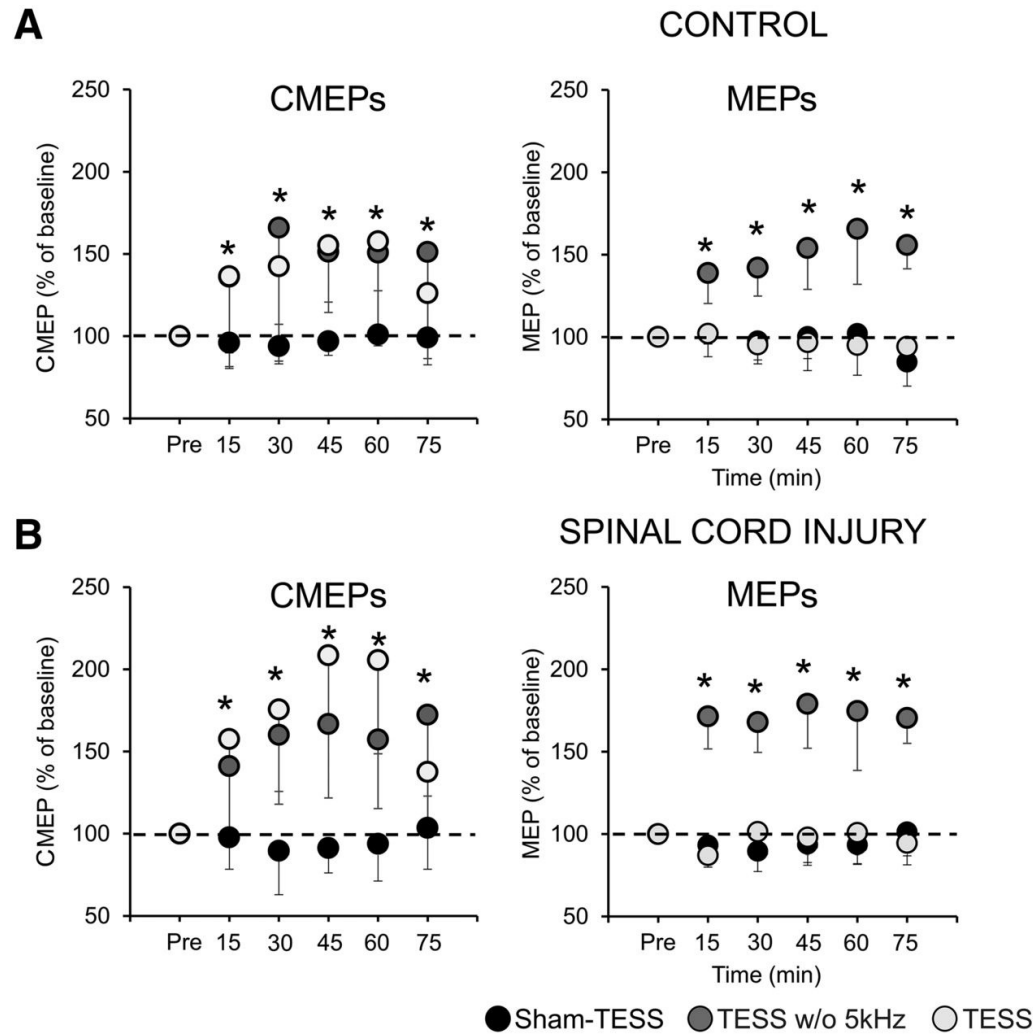
Effect of Achilles tendon vibration on posterior root-muscle reflexes of ipsilateral quadriceps (Q), hamstrings (Ham), tibialis anterior (TA), and triceps surae (TS). Transcutaneous stimulation was applied over the T11-T12 interspinous space at a rate of 0.2 Hz and with constant stimulus intensity of 20 V. Recordings derived from a subject with intact nervous system in supine position. The examined lower limb was positioned with the Achilles tendon resting on the vibrator.

Sayenko, D. G., D. A. Atkinson, C. J. Dy, K. M. Gurley, V. L. Smith, C. Angeli, S. J. Harkema, V. R. Edgerton and Y. P. Gerasimenko (2015). "Spinal segment-specific transcutaneous stimulation differentially shapes activation pattern among motor pools in humans." *J Appl Physiol* (1985) **118**(11): 1364-1374.





## Effect of different currents.



Benavides, F. D., H. J. Jo, H. Lundell, V. R. Edgerton, Y. Gerasimenko and M. A. Perez (2020). "Cortical and Subcortical Effects of Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation in Humans with Tetraplegia." *J Neurosci* **40**(13): 2633-2643.