

# *De Zin en Onzin van Dry Needling*



## **Myofasciale Trigger Points**

dr. Carel Bron, manueel fysiotherapeut  
praktijk voor nek, schouder- en armklachten Groningen  
IQ-Healthcare, Radboud UMC Nijmegen





## Redskins' Dry Needles Speed Recovery Time

Posted Mar 20, 2013



Brian Tinsman  
Lead Writer  
Redskins.com



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Comments:11



In 2012, the Redskins became one of just five teams in the NFL to embrace a revolutionary form of physical therapy called dry needling.



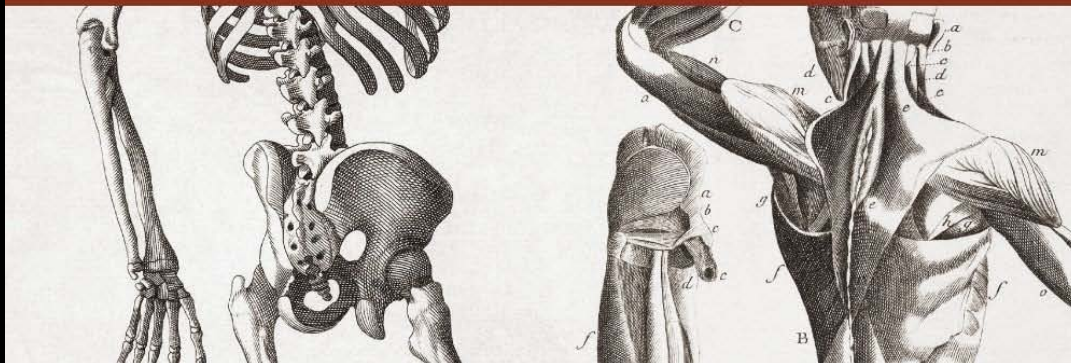
**Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD's) are injury or disorder of muscles, nerves, tendons, joints, cartilage, or spinal discs. Not caused by slips, trips, falls, motor vehicle accidents, or other accidents. (World Health Organization, 1985).**

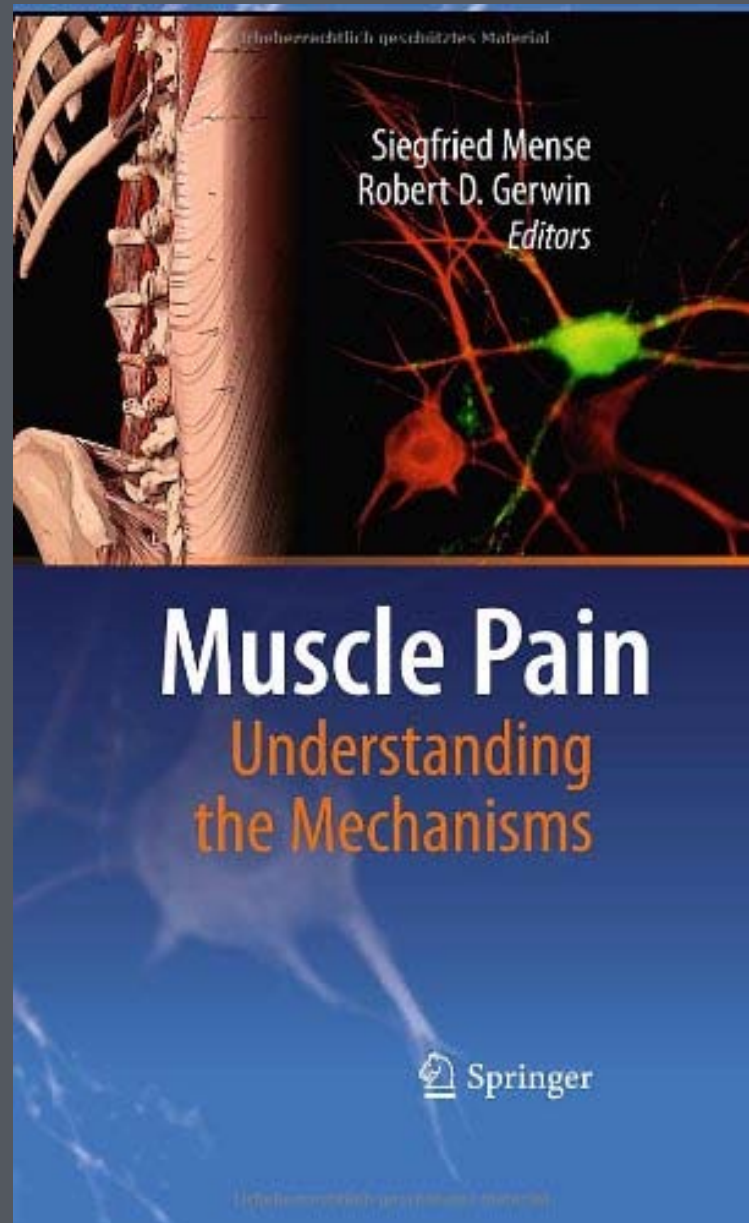
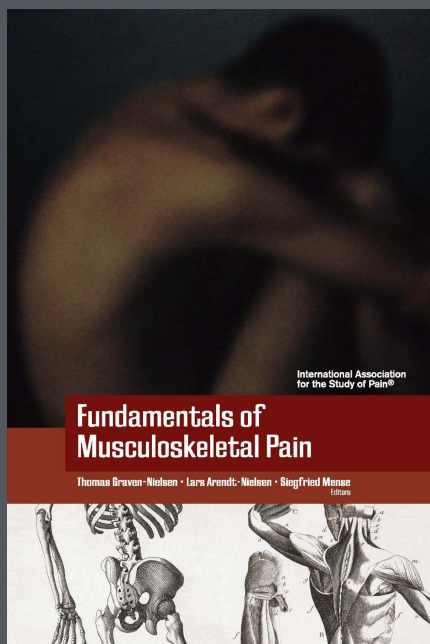


International Association  
for the Study of Pain®

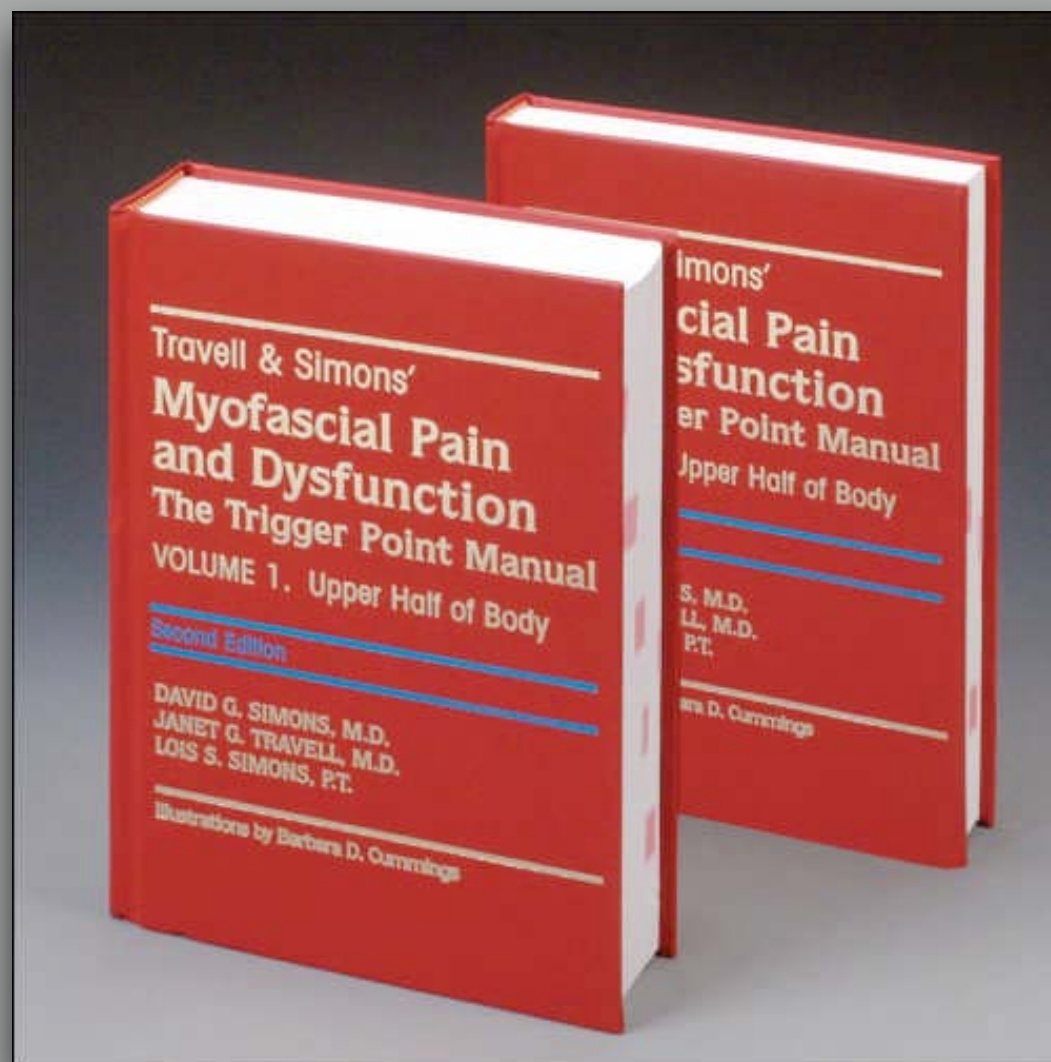
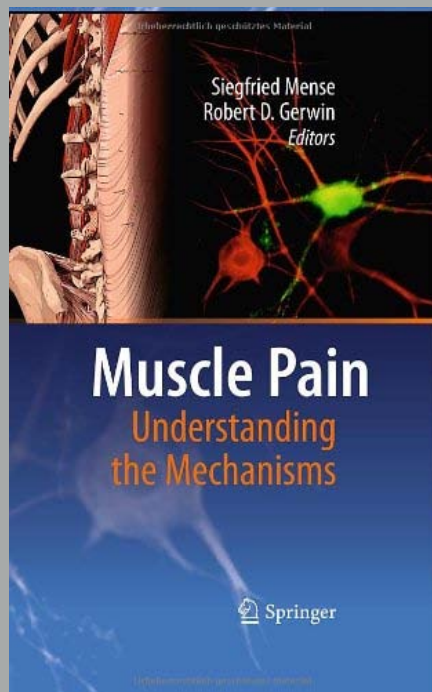
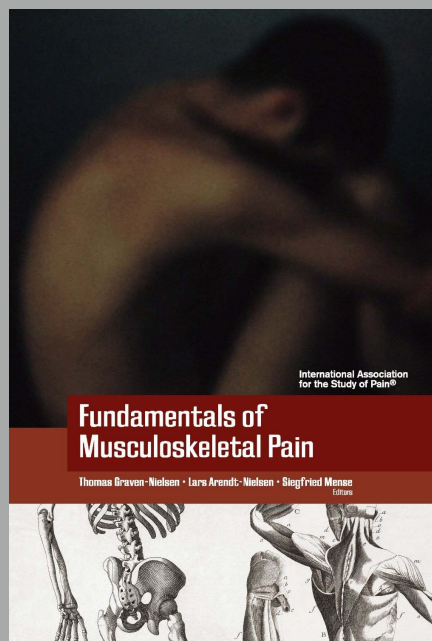
# Fundamentals of Musculoskeletal Pain

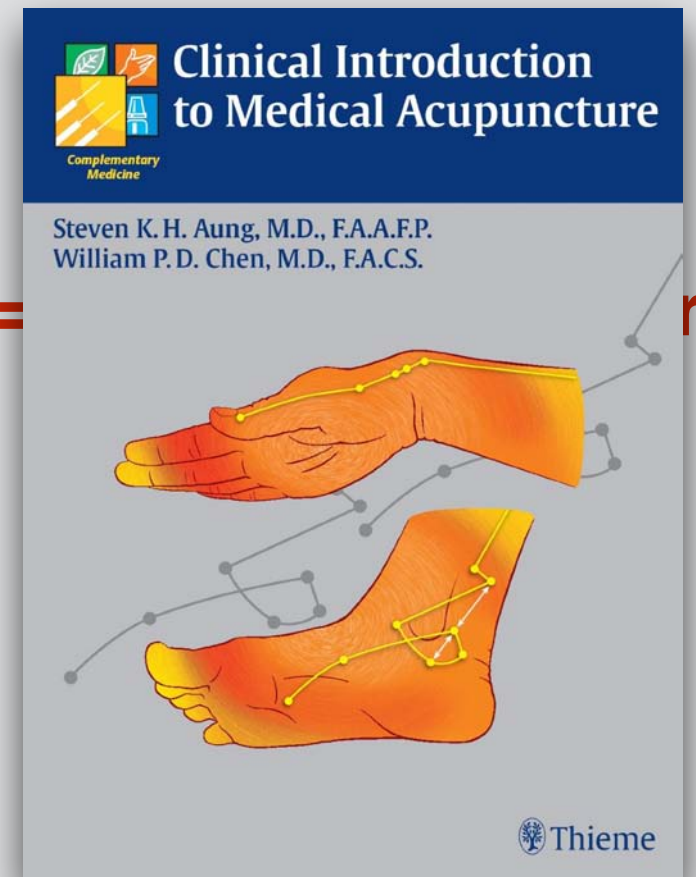
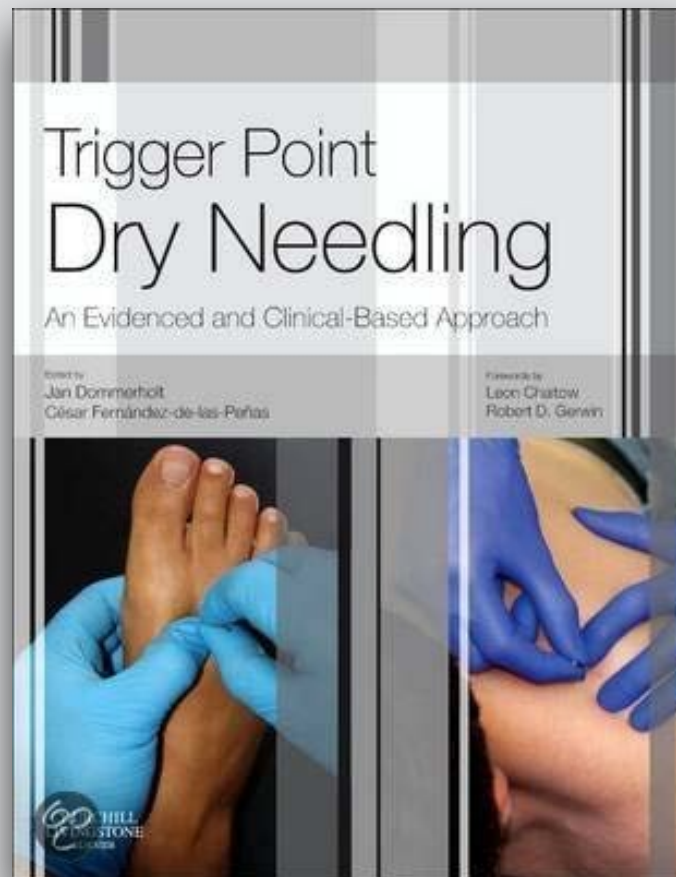
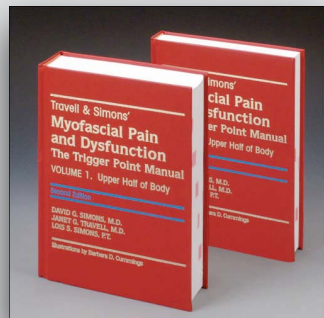
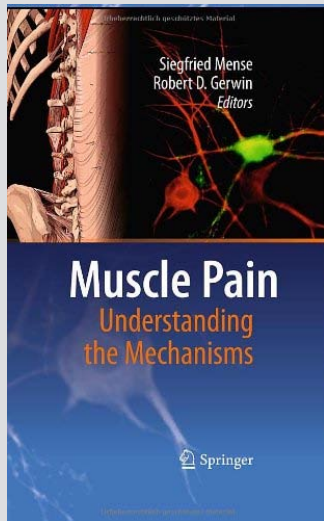
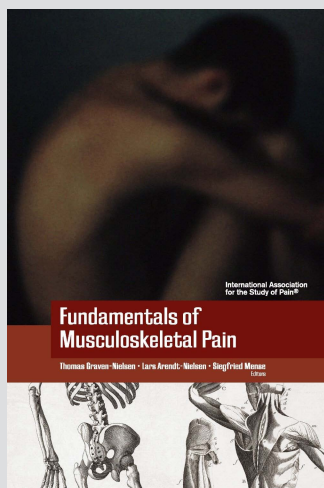
Thomas Graven-Nielsen • Lars Arendt-Nielsen • Siegfried Mense  
Editors













# Steinbrocker, JAMA , June 1944

Therapeutic injections in painful musculoskeletal disorders with special reference tot the saline-procaine test

## The Journal of the American Medical Association

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
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JUNE 10, 1944

### THERAPEUTIC INJECTIONS IN PAINFUL MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE  
SALINE-PROCAINE TEST

OTTO STEINBROCKER, M.D.  
NEW YORK

Analgesic therapy with procaine hydrochloride and numerous other substances is being widely employed in a variety of painful disorders and has established its effectiveness in many of them.<sup>1</sup> Its field of usefulness has been steadily extended recently, particularly in acute and chronic musculoskeletal conditions—fibrositis (myositis), bursitis, neuritis and some arthritides.<sup>2</sup> Although every practitioner or student of these diseases must encounter some apparently suitable patients whose stubborn symptoms fail to respond to procaine or alcohol block, confusing differences in therapeutic results have been recorded by various investigators. The mere insertion of a needle somewhere in the region of pain, without introducing analgesic solutions, also has been reported to give frequent lasting relief.<sup>3</sup>

For the past several years I have been interested in ascertaining the causes of these discrepancies.<sup>4</sup> Naturally, a small percentage of technical failure is inherent in procedures which must be applied deeply and by precise methods, subject to the unpredictable variations of anatomy and tissue response. My purpose in this discussion is to emphasize some of the factors, apart from technic, that I have observed to present obstacles to effective analgesia, as well as sources of dramatic response to simple control measures.

#### DIAGNOSIS AS A SOURCE OF FAILURE

In therapeutic analgesia especially, correct diagnosis is a necessary prerequisite for successful treatment. The anesthetist or therapist is often asked to treat

In several instances I have seen a subdeltoid calcification properly but unsuccessfully infiltrated with procaine for shoulder pain. The patients presented other points of tenderness that had not been sought, or were overlooked, because the x-ray film showed a calcified deposit under the tender skin first palpated. Obvious findings, such as calcified tendons or bursae, osteoarthritic spurs or other musculoskeletal changes should not be accorded undue importance without a complete investigation and evaluation of the history and signs as a whole. Cutaneous hyperesthesia must be distinguished when present and mapped out in its entirety, if it is not to mislead one. In the complicated problem of intractable pain, diagnosis and localization of the source of symptoms require thorough, detailed examination and correct interpretation of the medical and neurologic data. An opinion from related specialties often is required.

#### SUBJECTIVE COMPLAINTS WITHOUT OBJECTIVE SIGNS

Although functional disturbances may be characterized by complaints not associated with definite objective signs, occasionally organic lesions too produce symptoms without localizing features. Injuries or inflammation of deep structures not accessible to palpation and unaccompanied by referred skin hyperesthesia, muscle tenderness or spasm, or limited mobility may yield no significant information to the examiner. Radiating or referred pain from a radicular or soft tissue process may be described in characteristic anatomic distribution unassociated with objective evidence of the site involved.

The only indication of the seat of trouble may be the patient's repeated and unvarying description of the type and distribution of pain. Lesions in a tendon, joint capsule or periarthritic tissues may provoke pain only during certain movements. This information may be the sole clue to the source of symptoms. In these cases local analgesia can be carried out only as

The mere insertion of a needle somewhere in the region of pain, without introducing analgesic solutions, also has been reported to give frequent lasting relief.

OMAHA BEACHHEAD, 1944

V CORPS D-DAY OPERATIONS  
6 JUNE 1944

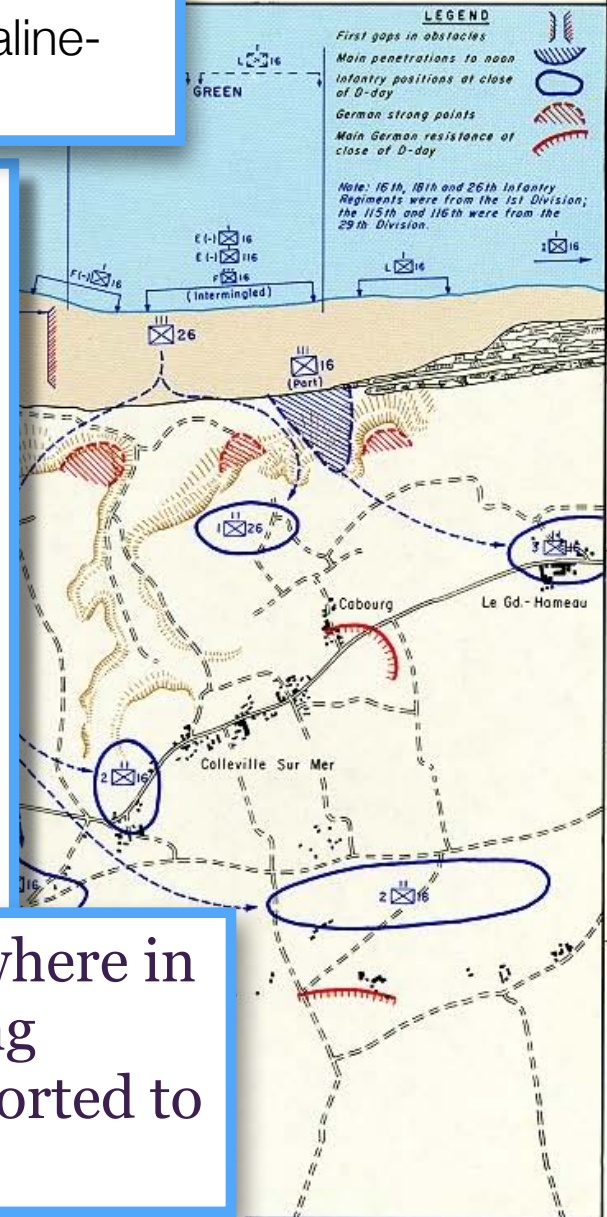
57

0 500 1000 1500  
SCALE OF YARDS

#### LEGEND

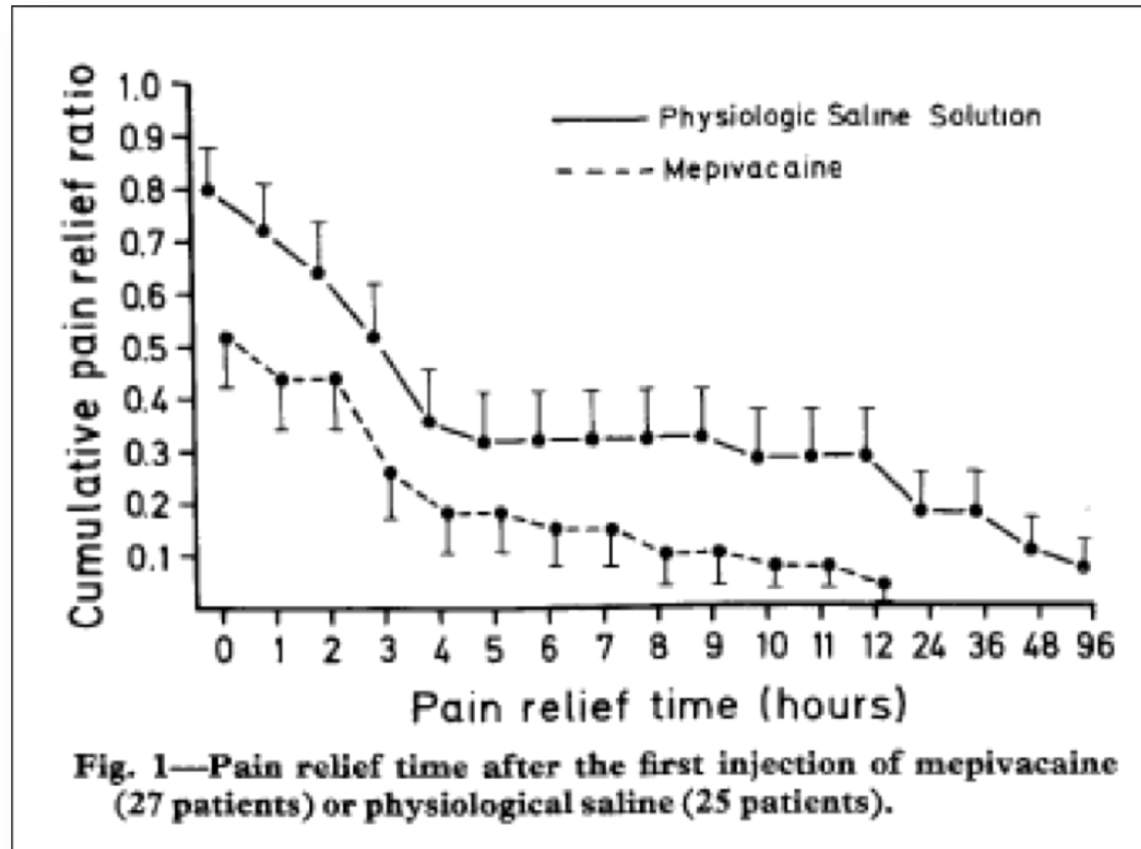
First gaps in obstacles  
Main penetrations to noon  
Infantry positions at close of D-day  
German strong points  
Main German resistance of close of D-day

Note: 16th, 18th and 26th Infantry Regiments were from the 1st Division; the 115th and 116th were from the 29th Division.



This map is a composite of a number of charts in the excellent publication of the Center of Military History, Department of the Army: Gordon A. Harrison, *Cross Channel Attack*.

# Frost et al. The Lancet March 1980



In a double-blind study 28 patients with acute, localised muscle pain received four local injections of mepivacaine 0.5%, and 25 patients with the same type of pain received local injections of an equivalent volume of physiological saline.

- The group receiving saline tended to have more relief of pain, especially after the first injection.
- The results thus show that pain relief is not due merely to the local anaesthetic.
- The study therefore raises questions about the mechanism by which local injections into muscle relieves pain, since there is the possibility that a similar effect might also be achieved by merely inserting a needle into the trigger point.



**Merely inserting a needle into the trigger point**



# **Botulinum Toxin, Lidocaine, and Dry-Needling Injections in Patients with Myofascial Pain and Headaches. Venancio. J. Craniomandibular Practice 2009**

procentuele verbetering		
	symptom severity index	Intensity of headache 10 minutes after injection
Dry Needling	30%	45%
Lidocaine	23%	43%
Botox	0%	48%

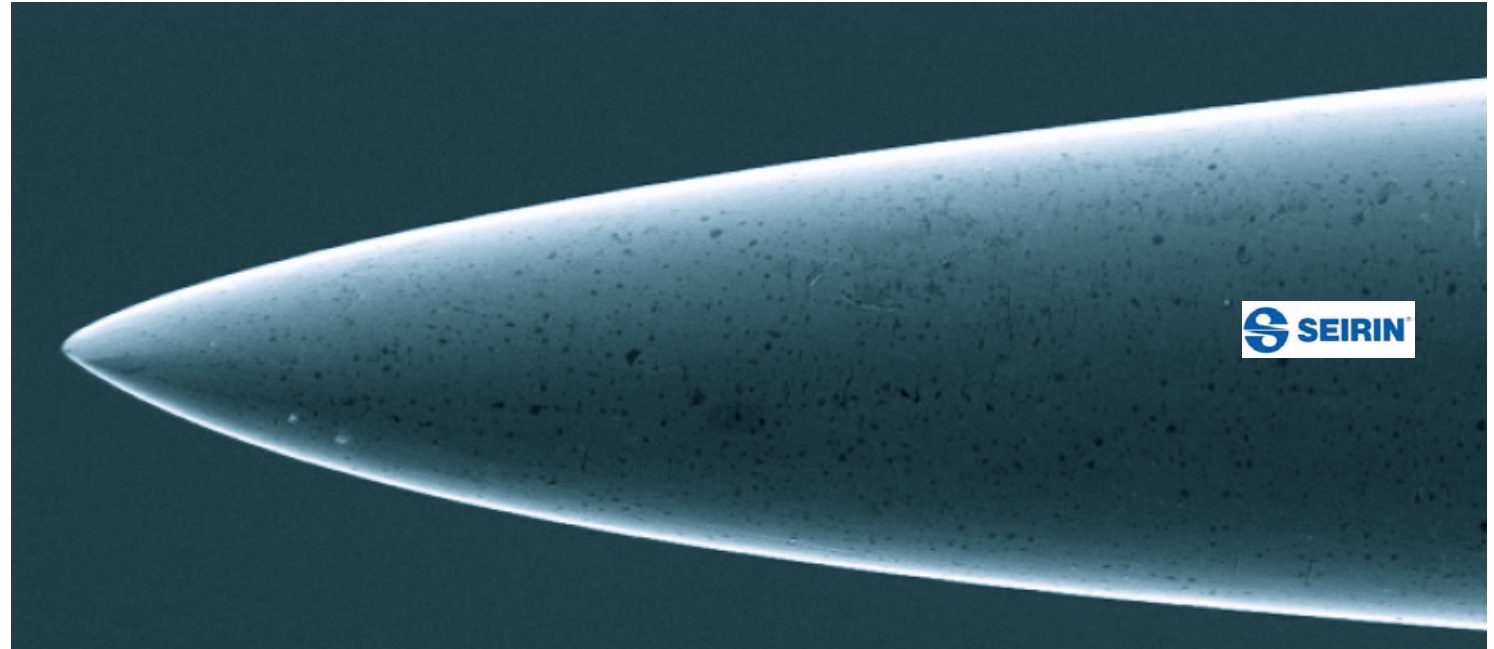
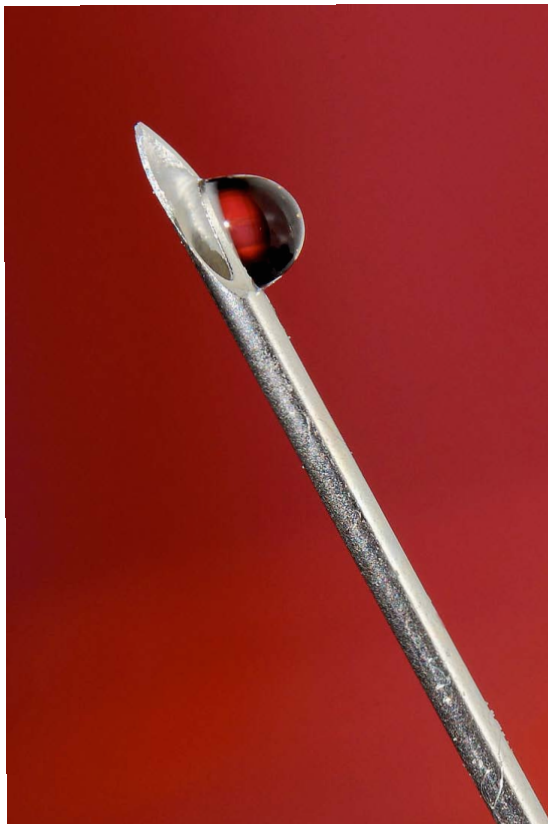
## THE NEEDLE EFFECT IN THE RELIEF OF MYOFASCIAL PAIN

KAREL LEWIT

*Central Railway Health Institute, Department of Vertebrogenic Disorders, Máchova 21,  
120 00 Prague (Czechoslovakia)*

(Accepted October 11th, 1978)

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# LIDOCAINE INJECTION VERSUS DRY NEEDLING TO MYOFASCIAL TRIGGER POINT

## The Importance of the Local Twitch Response<sup>1</sup>

Chang-Zern Hong, MD<sup>2</sup>



# Wat is een myofasciaal Trigger point (TrP)?

Een palpabele spierversharding in een strakke band in een skeletspier, die erg drukpijnlijk is.

*(Simons, Travell en Simons, 1999)*

**ACTIEVE**

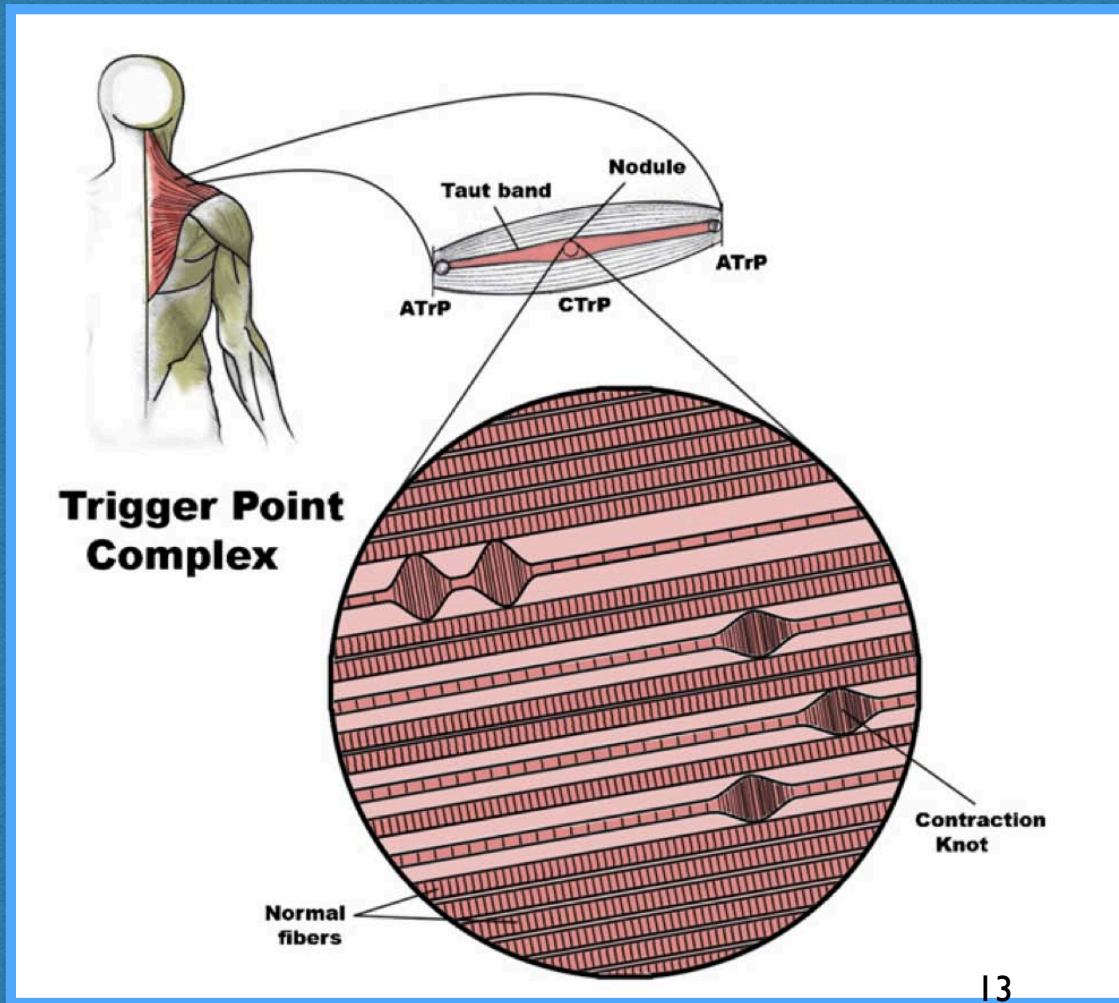
**LATENTE**



# Wat is een myofasciaal Trigger point (TrP)?

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*(Simons, Travell en Simons, 1999)*



**ACTIEVE**

**LATENTE**



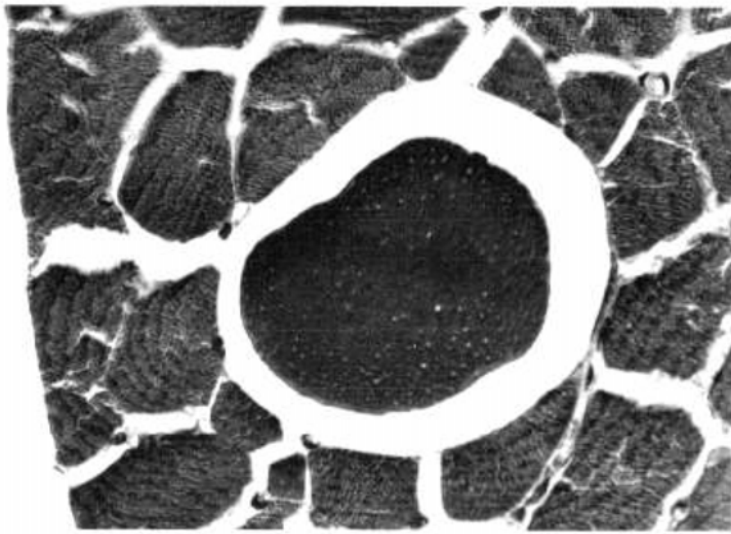


FIG. 8. Interior thick round muscle fiber within fasciculus. Thick round muscle fiber encroaches on space of adjacent normal fibers, shows a more condensed internal structure and stains more darkly than surrounding normal fibers which show a concentric pattern of their myofibrillar structure. Cross section from test biopsy, left sartorius. Trichrome,  $\times 240$ .

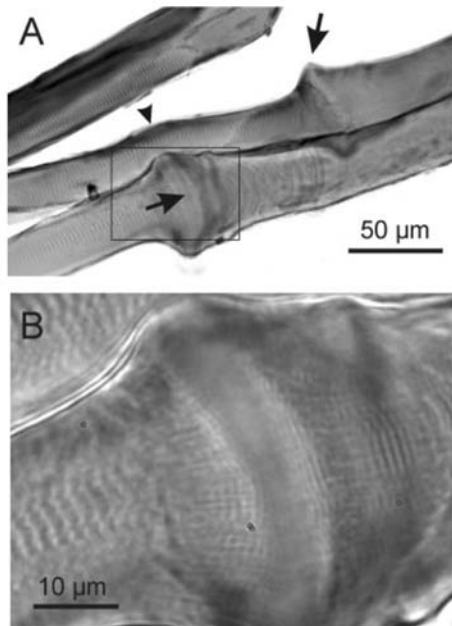
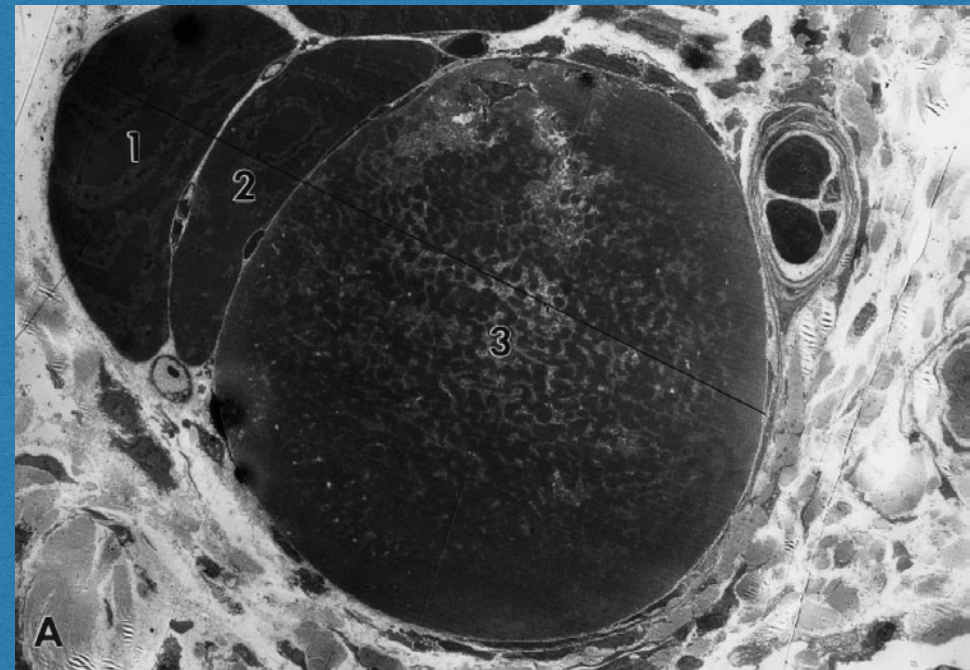


Fig. 3. Contraction disks in an area of the muscle where end plates were blocked as evidenced by a lack of cholinesterase stain [injection of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M diisopropylfluorophosphate (DFP), electrical stimulation for 60 min]. The blocked end plates were located outside the area

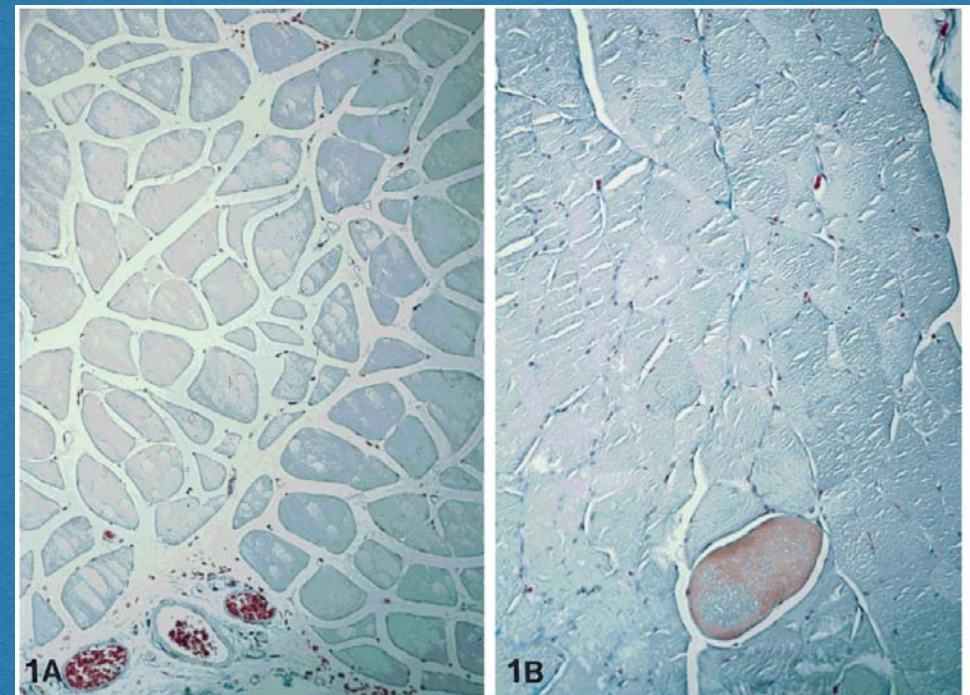


Fig. 1. A. Unchanged musculature (broad endomysial spaces). Paraffin section, trichromatic staining according to MASSON,  $\times 225$ . B. Myogelosis, narrow endomysium. Hypertrophic fibers (orange-red). Paraffin section, trichromatic staining according to MASSON,  $\times 225$ .



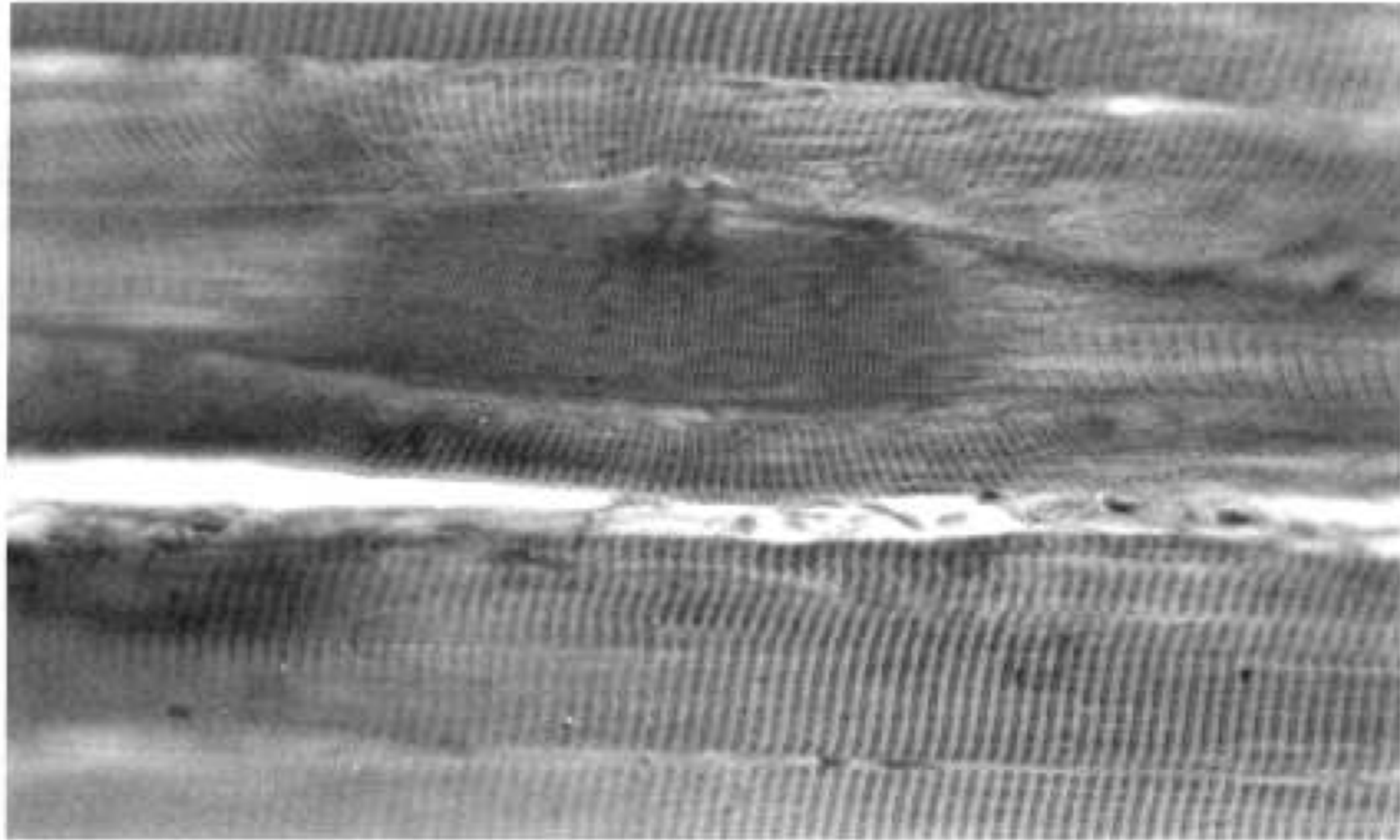
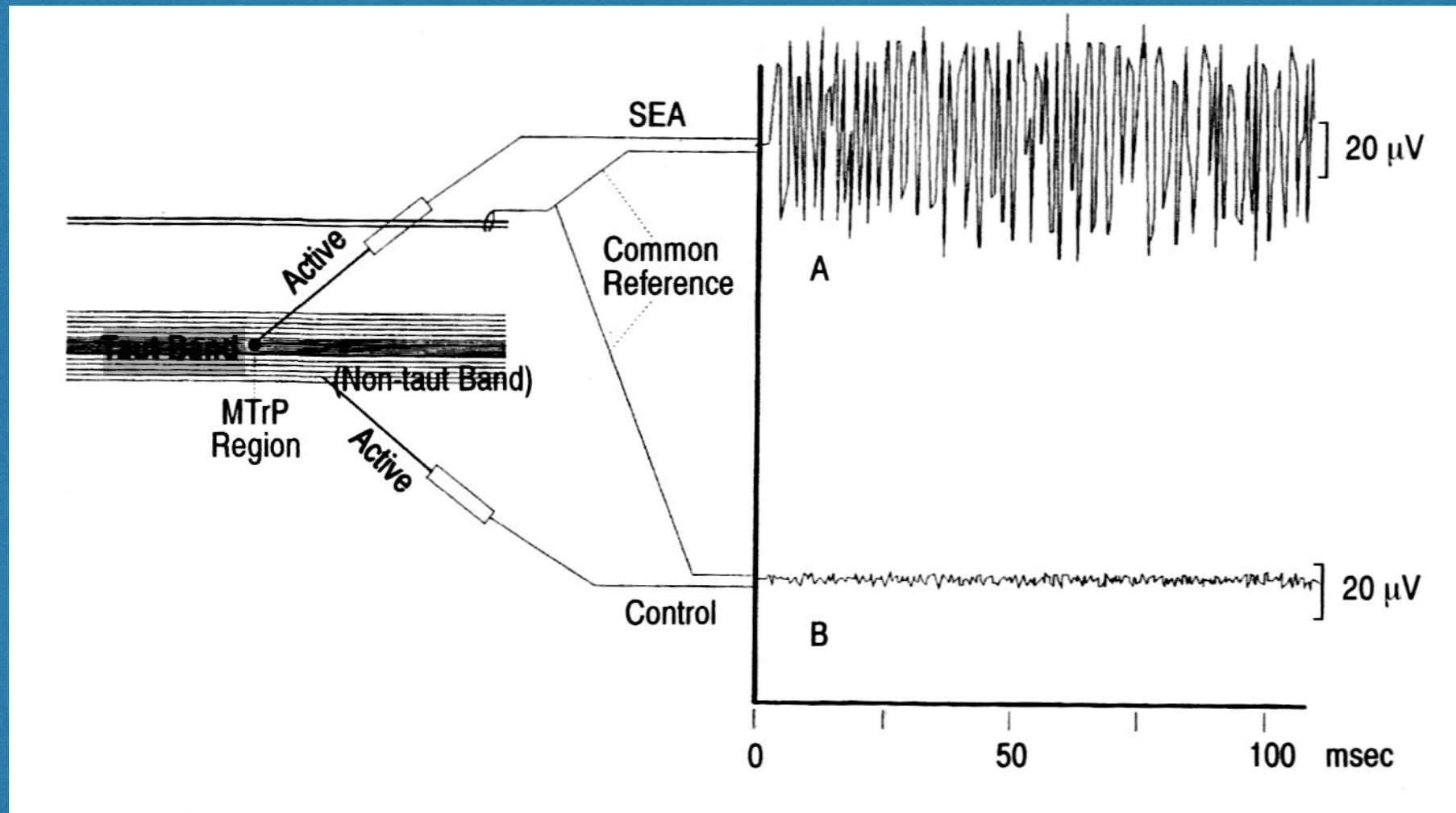


FIG. 12. Contraction knot encroaching upon, and distorting, striation pattern of adjacent fibers. Spacing of striations is closer within the knot, and more widely spaced on either side of it compared to normal spacing at bottom of figure. Longitudinal section, test biopsy of left gracilis. Trichrome,  $\times 240$ .

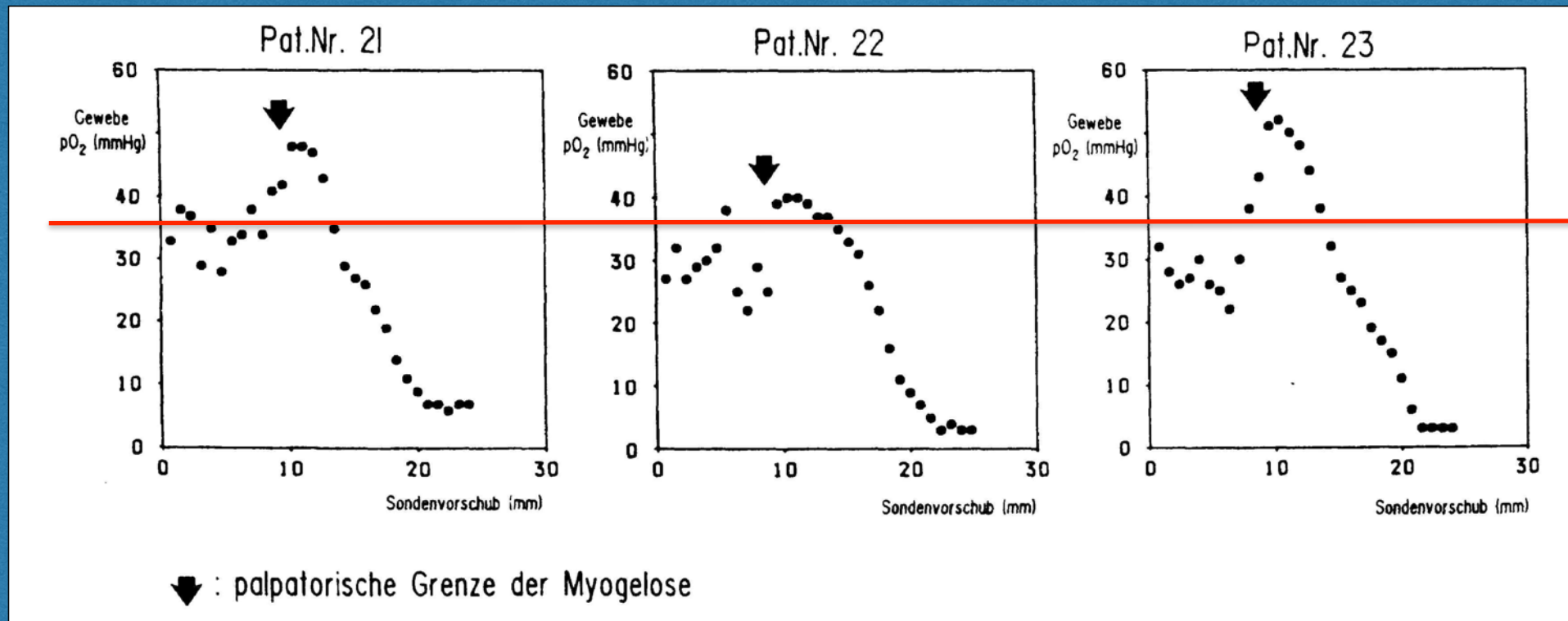
# Trigger Point Endplate Noise

(SEA is EPN according to Simons)



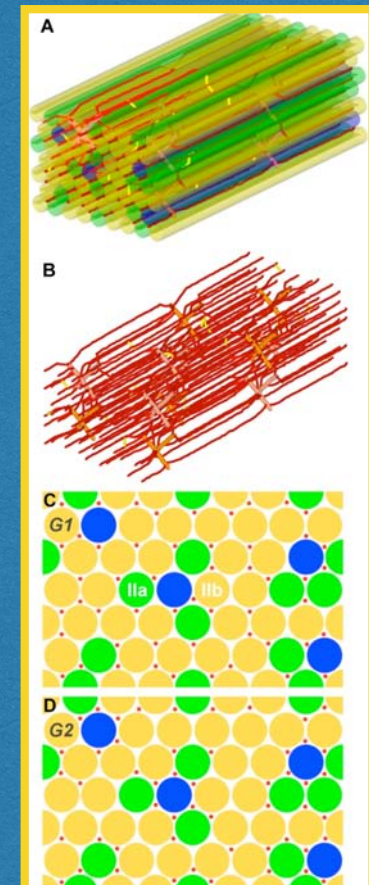
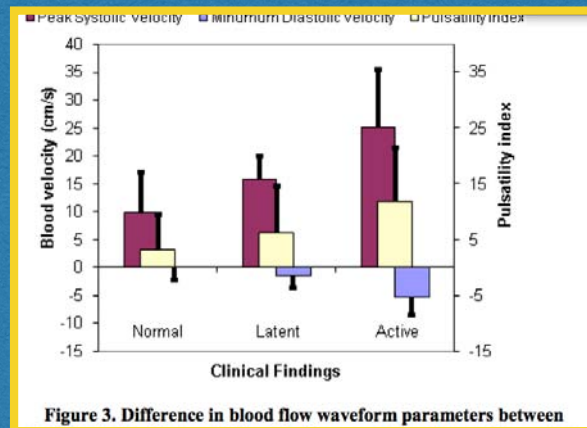
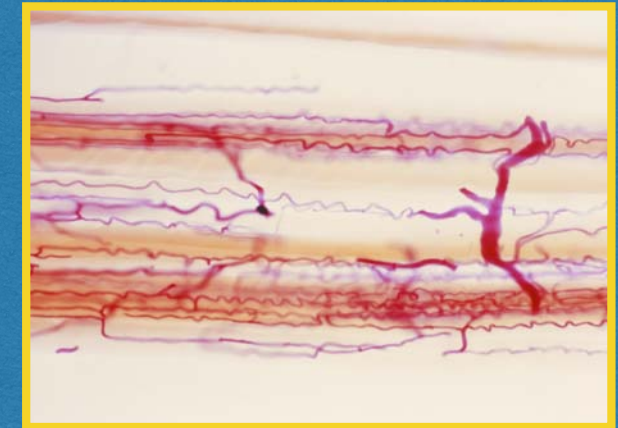
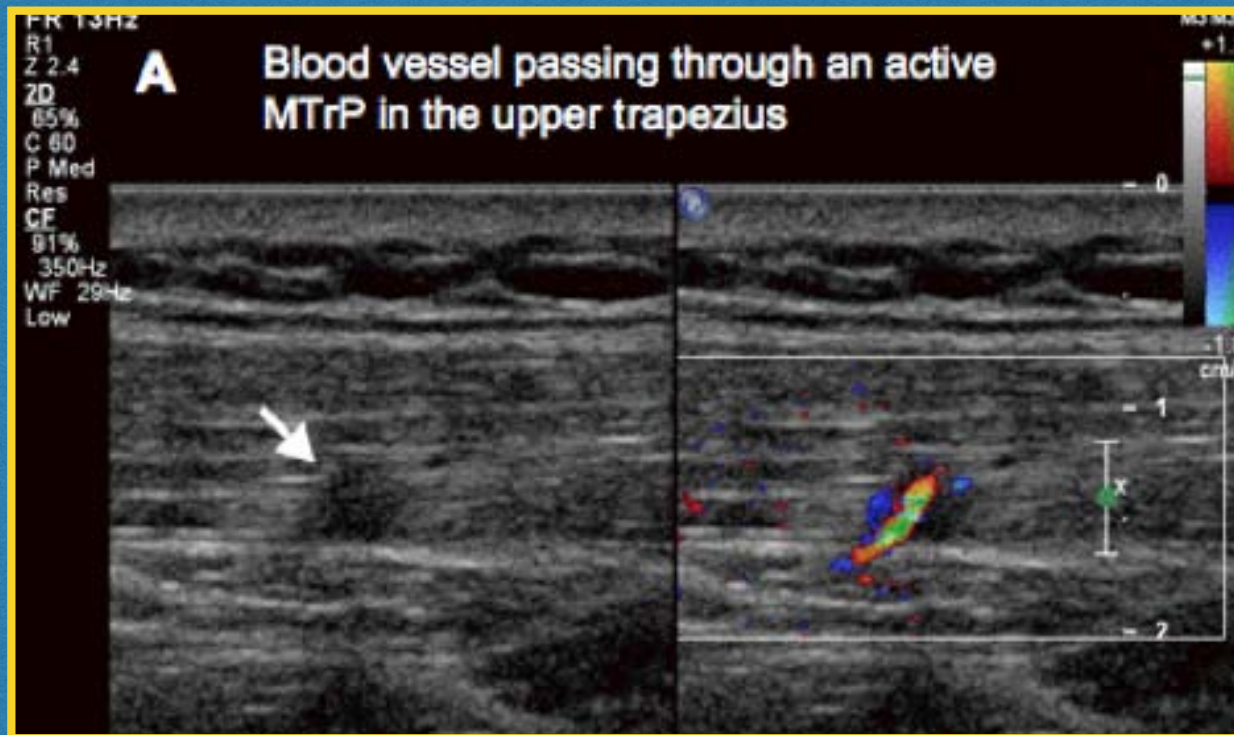


# Zuurstof spanning in MTrPs



*the mean oxygen saturation of adjacent normal muscle*

Brückle, W., et al., Gewebe- $pO_2$ -Messung in der verspannten Rückenmuskulatur (m. erector spinae). Z. Rheumatol., 1990. 49: p. 208-216.



## Understanding the Vascular Environment of Myofascial Trigger Points using Ultrasonic Imaging and Computational Modeling



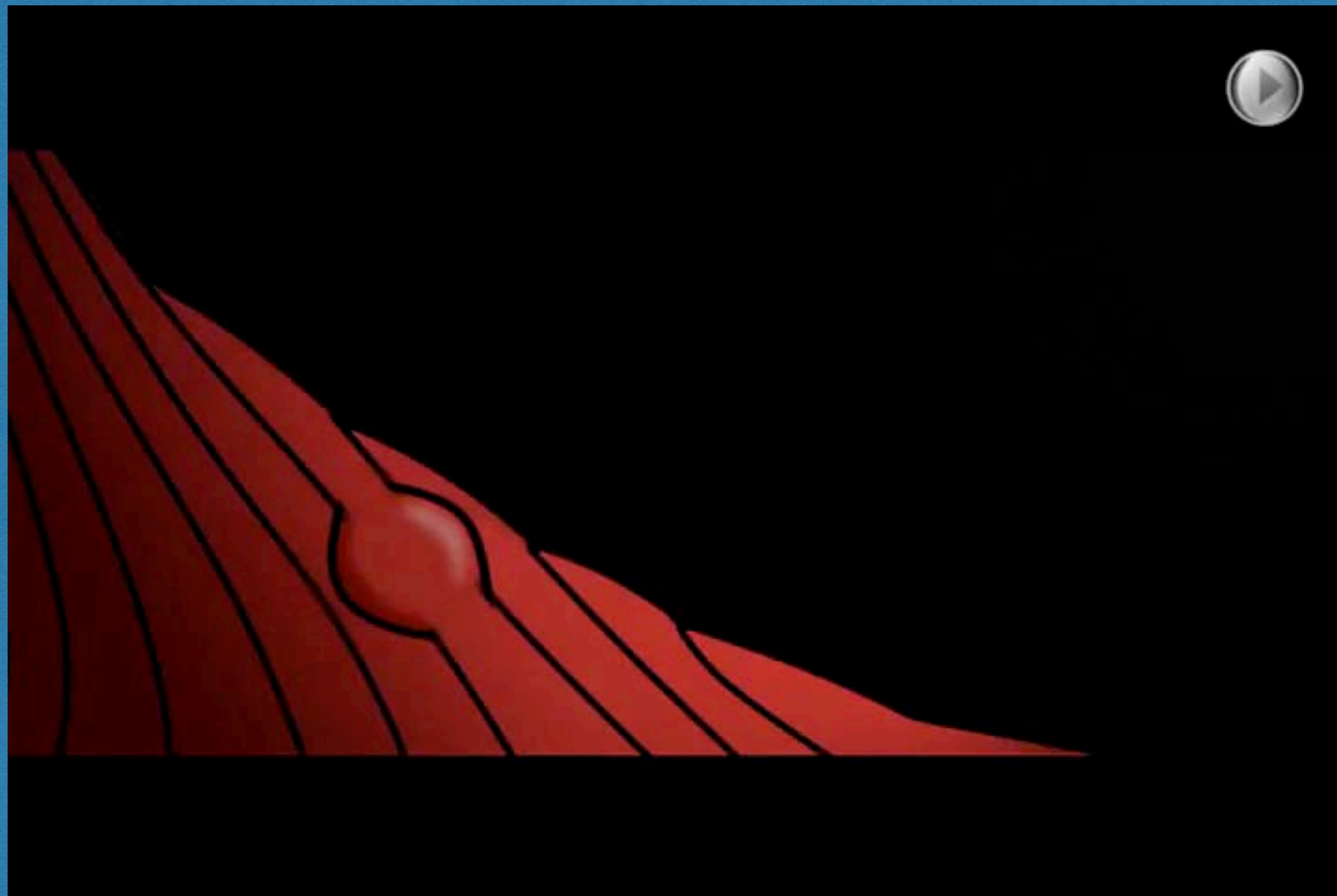
# verstoord biochemisch milieu



Shah, J.P., et al., An in-vivo microanalytical technique for measuring the local biochemical milieu of human skeletal muscle. J Appl Physiol, 2005. 99: p. 1980-1987

Shah JP, Danoff JV, Desai MJ, Parikh S, Nakamura LY, Phillips TM, and Gerber LH, Biochemicals associated with pain and inflammation are elevated in sites near to and remote from active myofascial trigger points. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. **89**(1): 16-23, 2008







# TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6 en 8

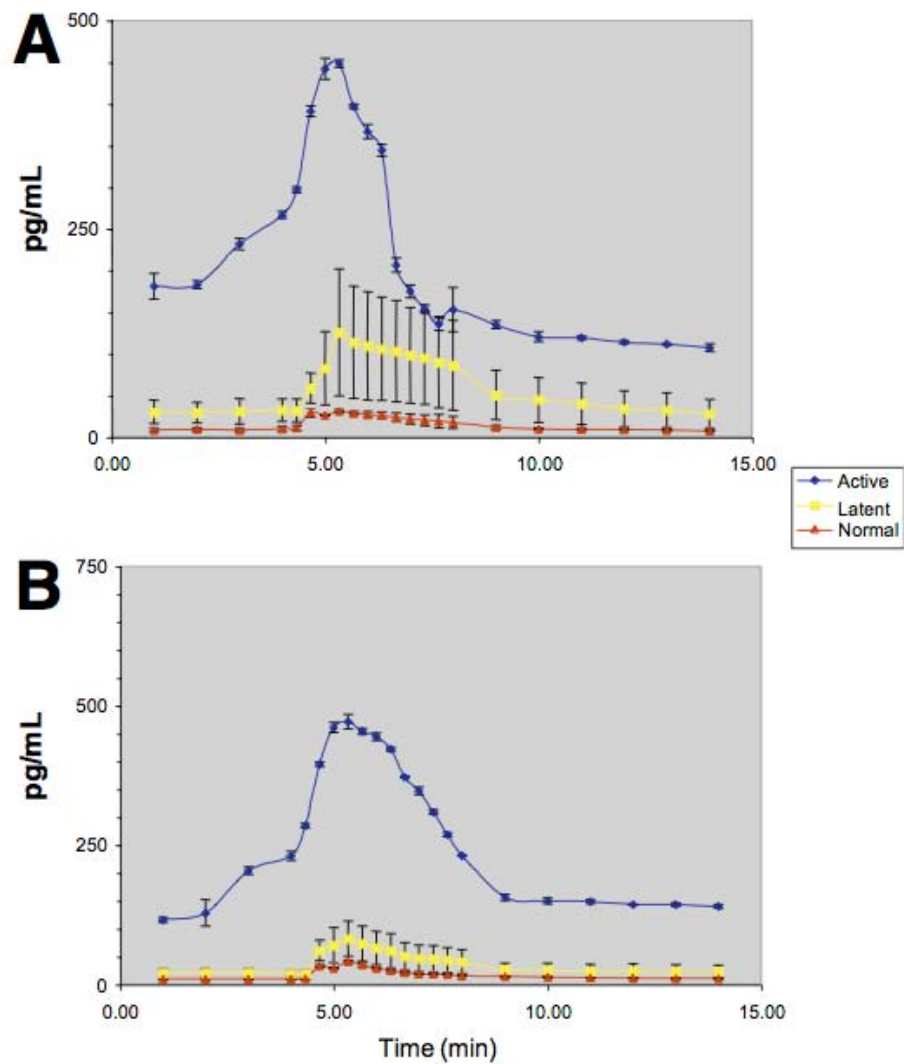


Fig 4. Analyte concentrations in the trapezius for (A) TNF- $\alpha$  and (B) IL-1 $\beta$ .

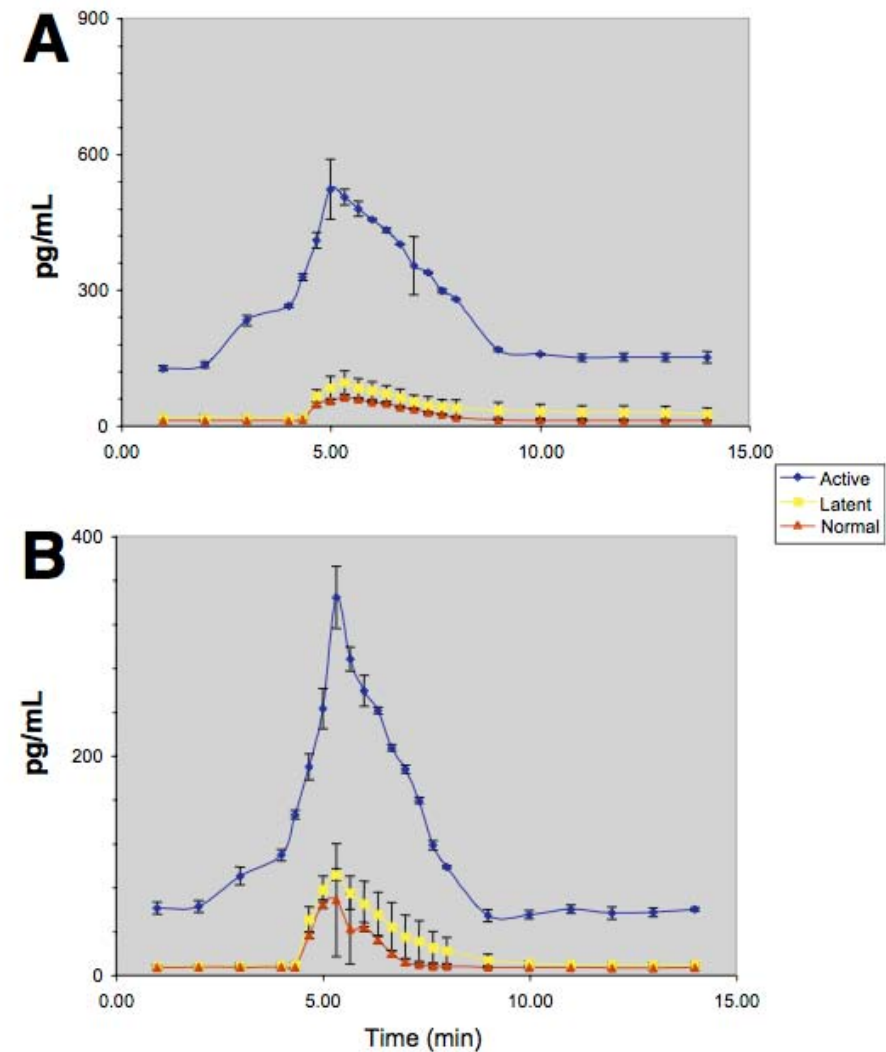


Fig 5. Analyte concentrations in the trapezius for (A) IL-6 and (B) IL-8.

# pH, Substance P, CGRP en Bradykinine

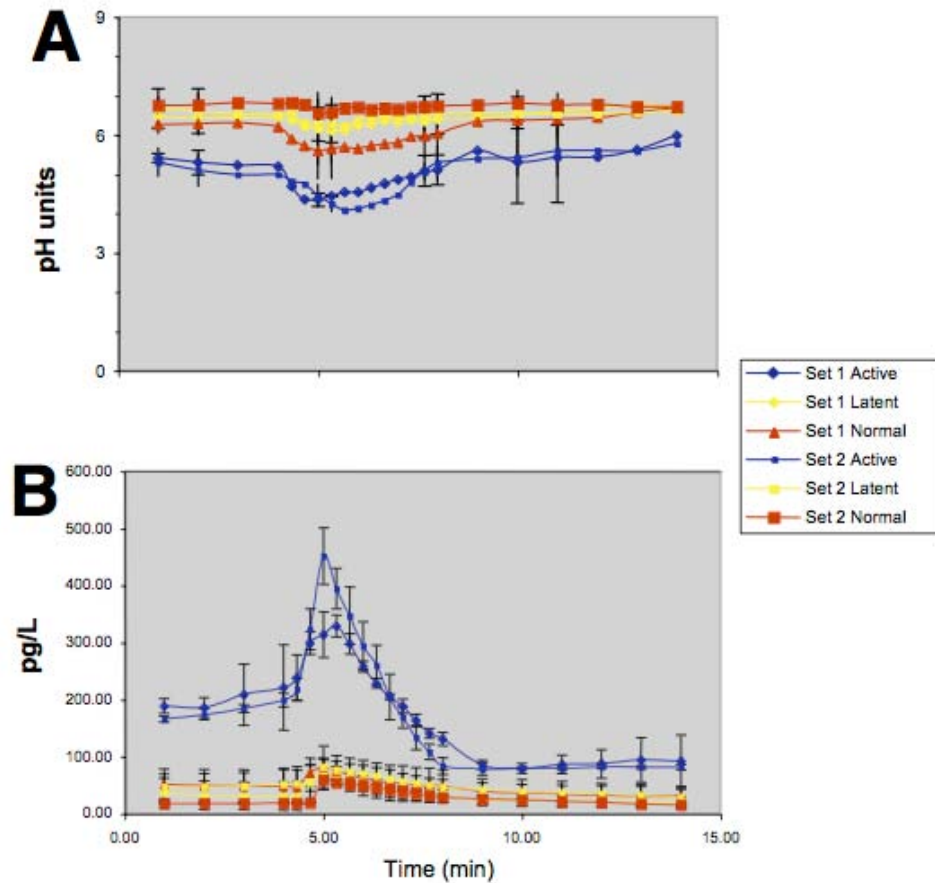


Fig 2. Analyte concentrations in the trapezius combining previous and current data. Collection for (A) pH and (B) SP.

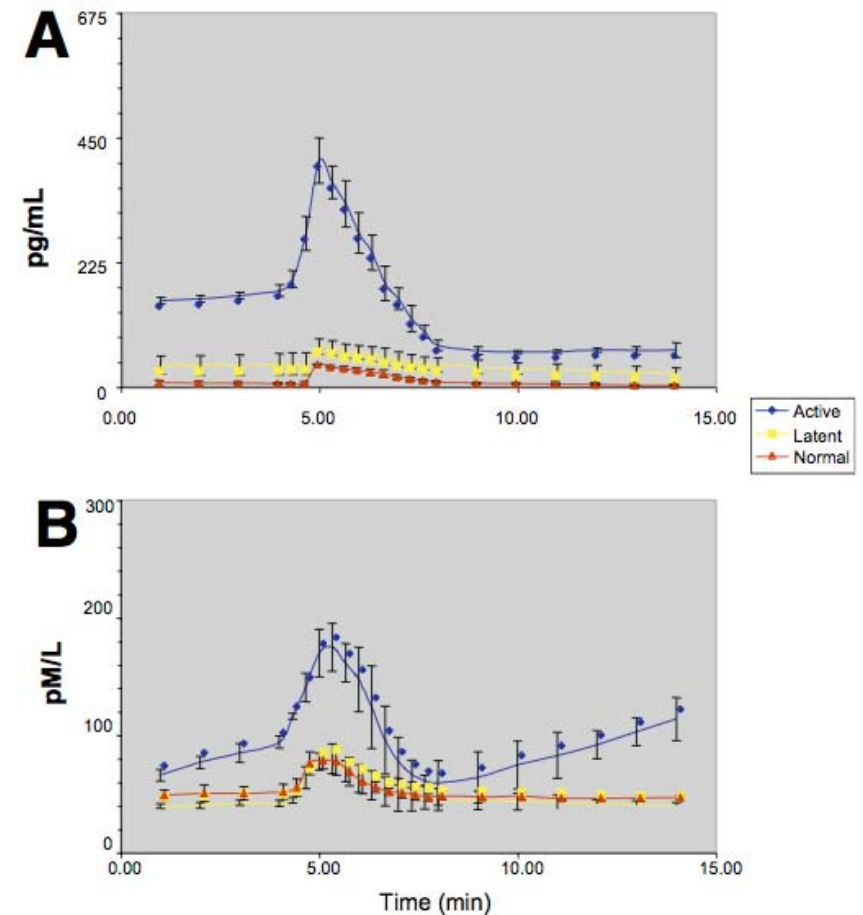
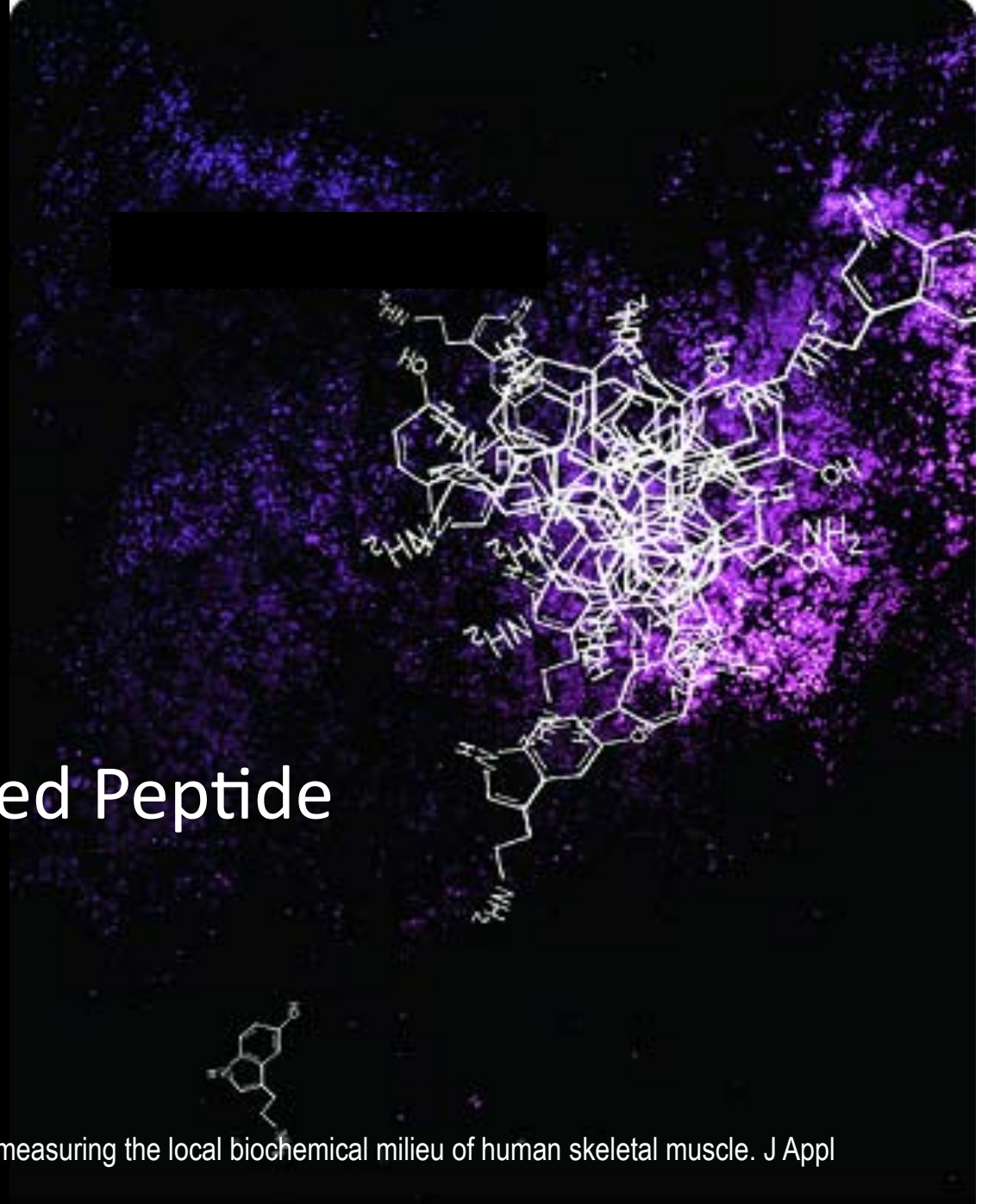


Fig 3. Analyte concentrations in the trapezius for (A) CGRP and (B) bradykinin.

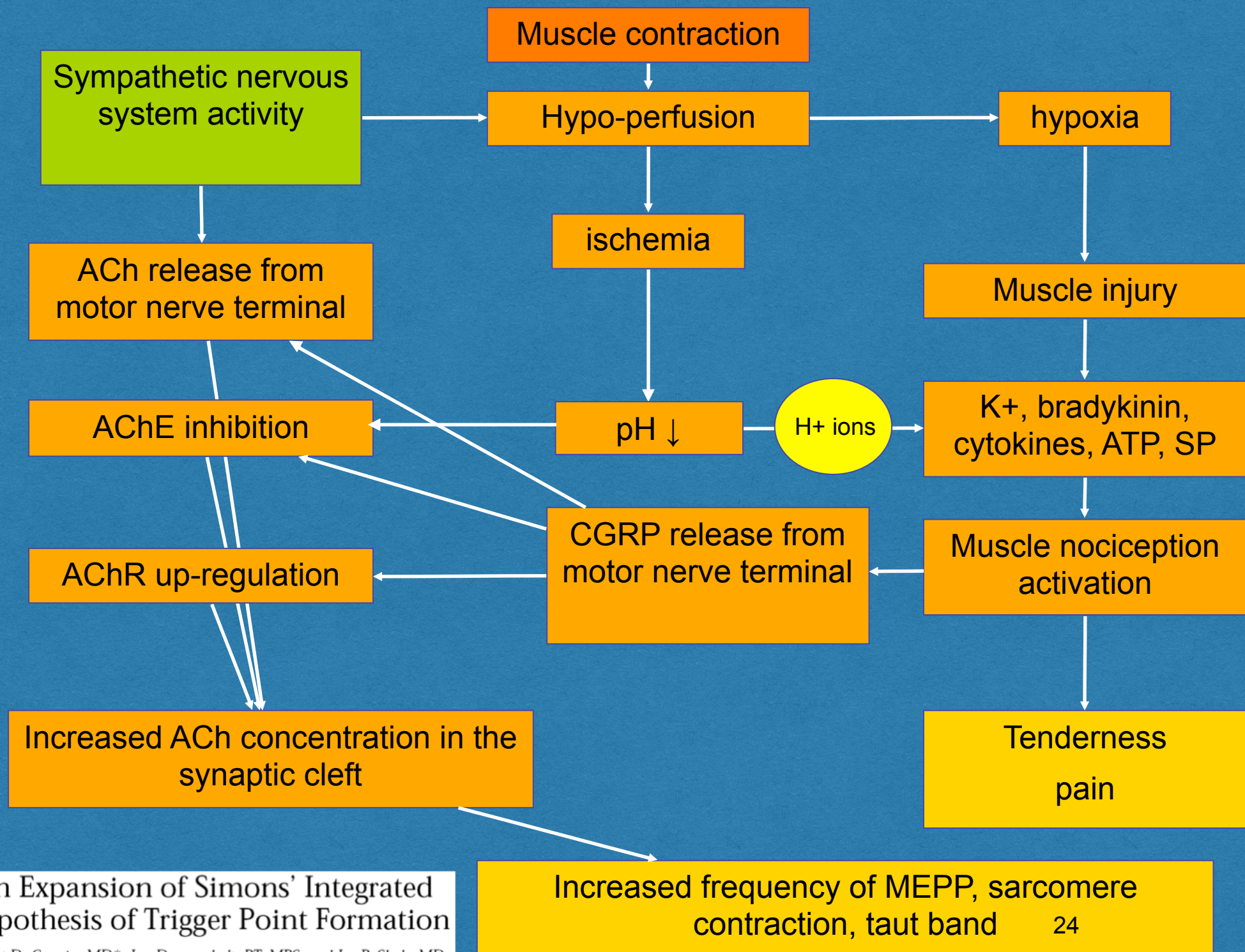


- Norepinephrine
- TNF –  $\alpha$
- Interleukin 1, 6, 8, 12
- Substance P
- Serotonin
- Calcitonin Gene Related Peptide



Shah, J.P., et al., An in-vivo microanalytical technique for measuring the local biochemical milieu of human skeletal muscle. J Appl Physiol, 2005. 99: p. 1980-1987

Shah JP, Danoff JV, Desai MJ, Parikh S, Nakamura LY, Phillips TM, and Gerber LH, Biochemicals associated with pain and inflammation are elevated in sites near to and remote from active myofascial trigger points. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. **89**(1): 16-23, 2008



An Expansion of Simons' Integrated Hypothesis of Trigger Point Formation

Robert D. Gerwin, MD\*, Jan Dommerholt, PT, MPS, and Jay P. Shah, MD



MTrPs veroorzaken:

## Sensorisch

pijn  
paresthesie

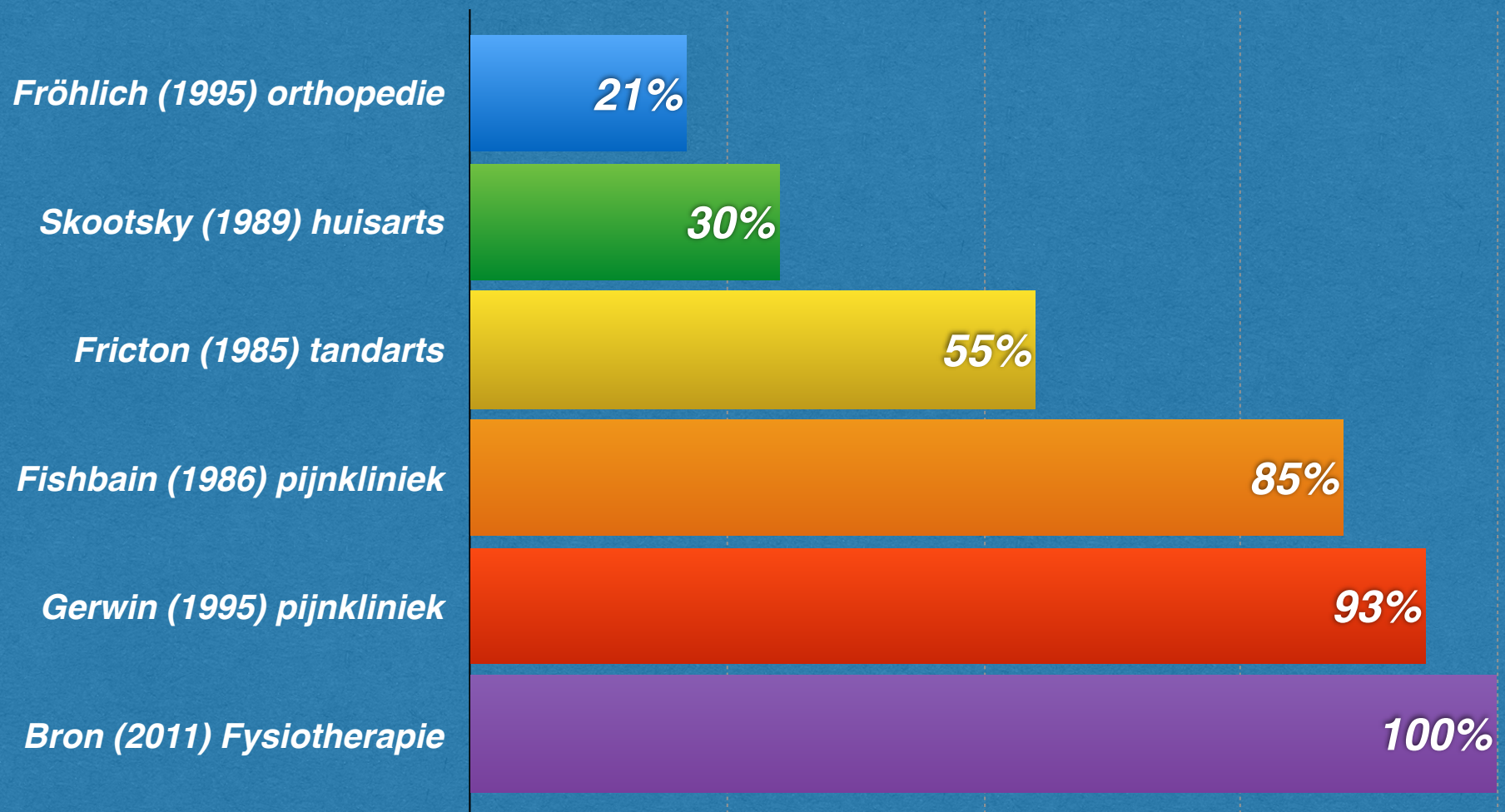
## Motorisch

spierstijfheid  
bewegingsbeperking  
krachtsverlies  
coördinatieverlies

## Vegetatief

Duizeligheid, zweterigheid,  
overmatig tranen  
loopneus, verkleuring

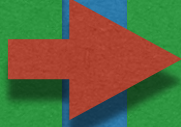
# Prevalentie



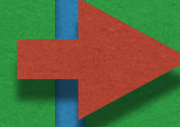


# Myofasciale Trigger Point Therapy

**Voorlichting**



**Klachtenonderhoudende factoren**  
identificeren en waar mogelijk verhelpen



**therapie**



## **Niet-invasieve therapie**

massage, triggerpoint compressie  
stretchen met of zonder ijs  
warmte applicatie

## **Invasieve therapie**

triggerpoint dry needling  
injectie therapie

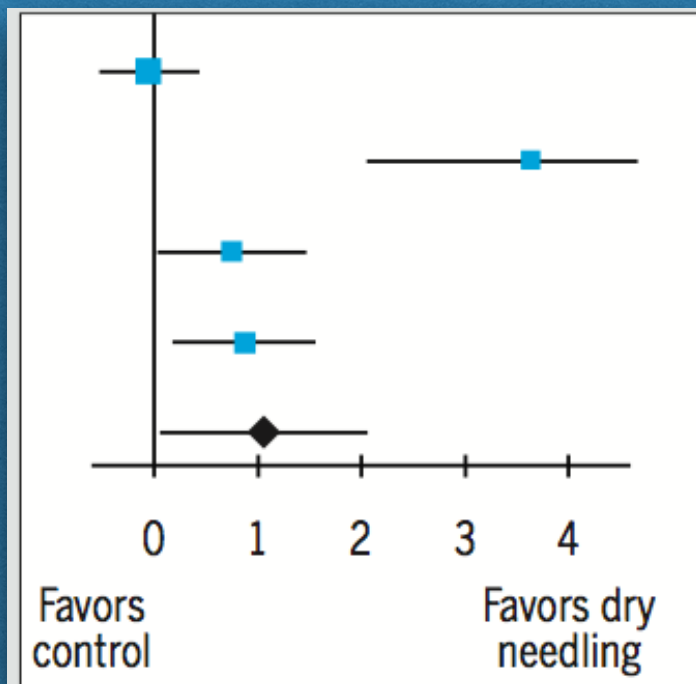
## **Alternatieven**

TENS, Laser, Ultrageluid, Shockwave

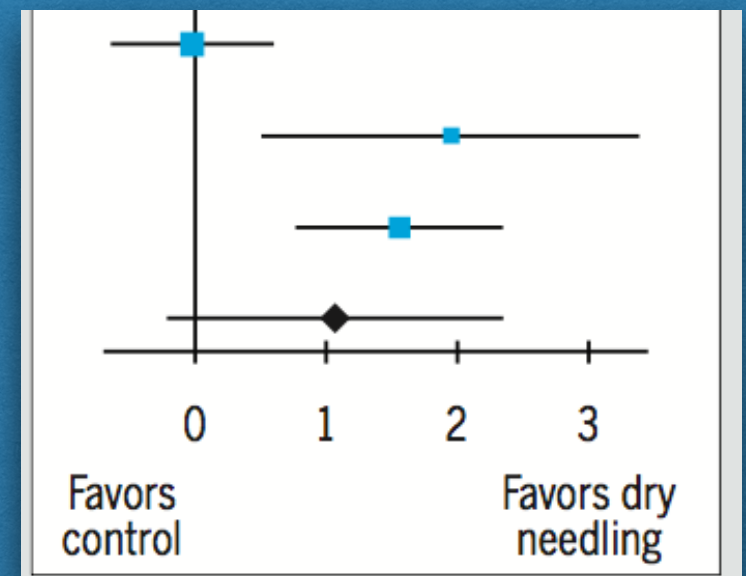
## Effectiveness of Dry Needling for Upper-Quarter Myofascial Pain: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

**CONCLUSION:** Based on the best current available evidence (grade A), we recommend dry needling, compared to sham or placebo, for decreasing pain immediately after treatment and at 4 weeks in patients with upper-quarter MPS.

Due to the small number of high-quality RCTs published to date, additional well-designed studies are needed to support this recommendation.



immediate effects



approximately after 4 weeks



## Efficacy of Myofascial Trigger Point Dry Needling in the Prevention of Pain after Total Knee Arthroplasty: A Randomized, Double-Blinded, Placebo-Controlled Trial

Orlando Mayoral,<sup>1</sup> Isabel Salvat,<sup>2</sup> María Teresa Martín,<sup>1</sup> Stella Martín,<sup>1</sup> Jesús Santiago,<sup>3</sup> José Cotarelo,<sup>3</sup> and Constantino Rodríguez<sup>3</sup>

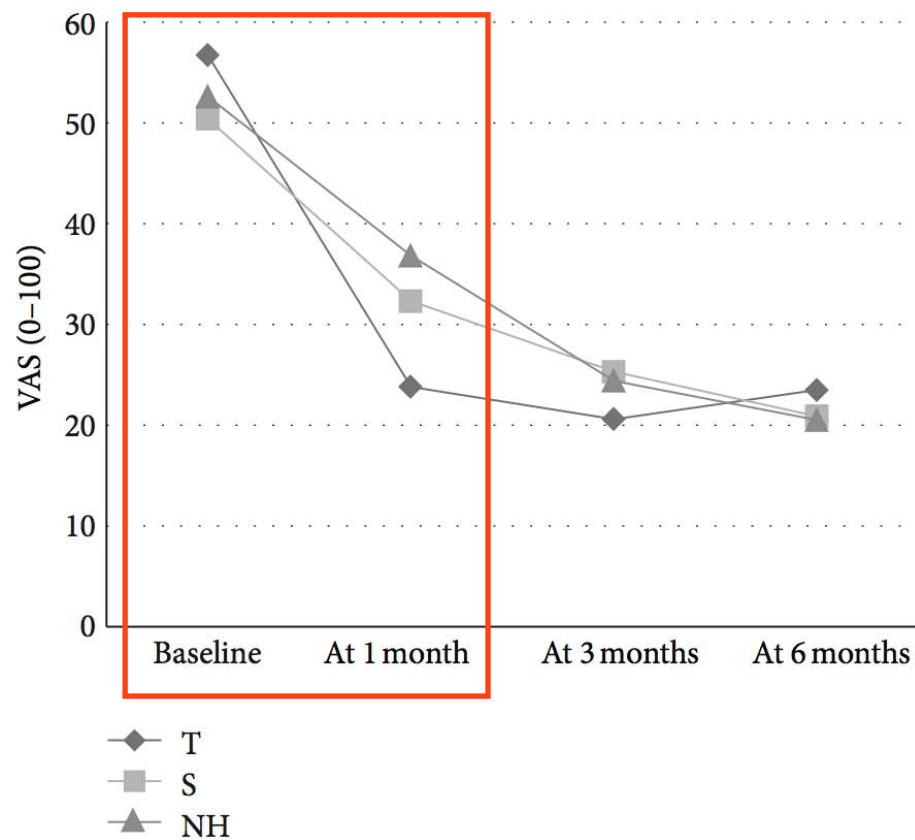


FIGURE 2: The graph shows average pain scores (VAS) at baseline, and at 1, 3, 6 months in the T group (true dry needling), in the S group (sham dry needling) and in the natural history (NH) [23].

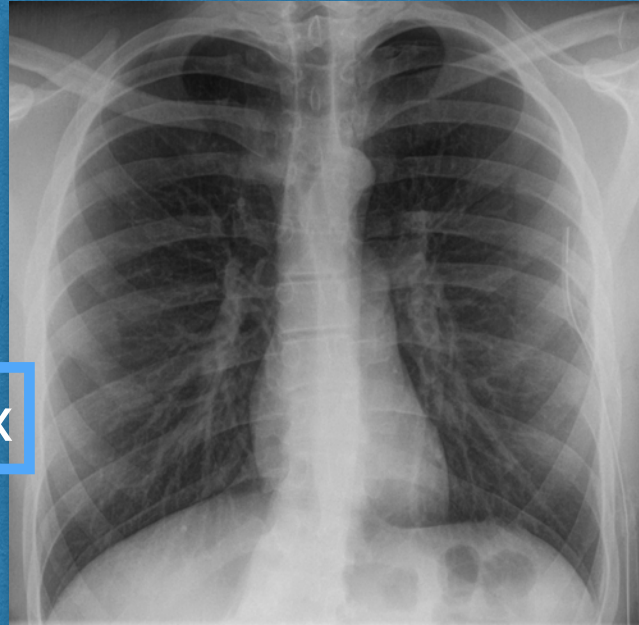
A single, brief, and safe dry needling treatment applied under anaesthesia in lower limb MTrPs reduced the pain in the first month after total knee replacement surgery, when pain is highest.



# Complicaties en bijwerkingen

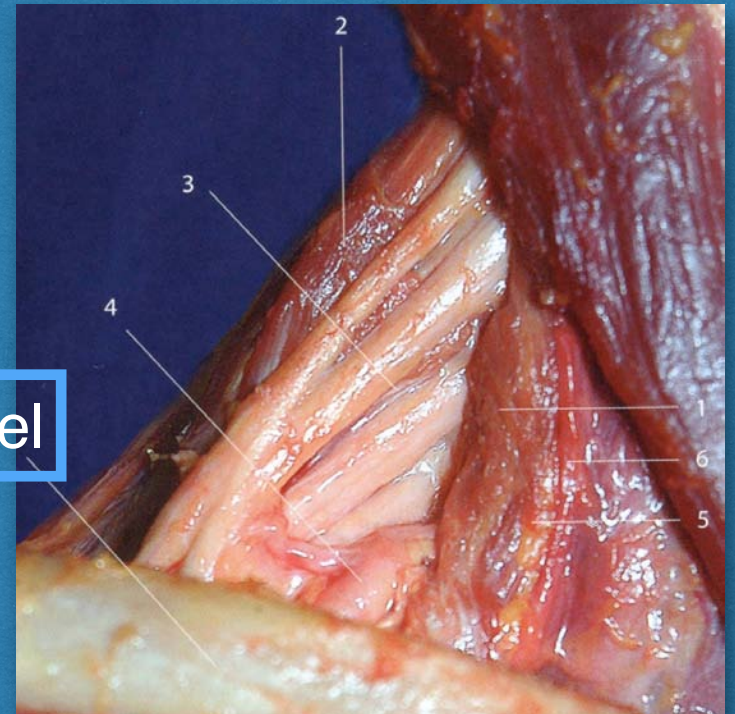


cervicaal epiduraal haematoom



pneumothorax

perifeer zenuw- of vaatletsel





# Adverse events following dry needling: A prospective survey of Chartered Physiotherapists

Brady S, McEvoy J, Dommerholt J, Doody C: Journal of Manual and Manipulative Therapy 2013.

Event	cases reported	Number per 100 treatments	
bleeding	576	7.55	vaak
bruising	355	4.65	
pain during treatment	230	3.01	
pain after treatment	167	2.19	
aggravation	67	0.88	soms
drowsiness	20	0.26	
feeling faint	17	0.22	
headache	11	0.14	
nausea	10	0.13	
fatigue	3	0.04	zelden
emotional	3 <sup>31</sup>	0.04	

Risk of a significant adverse event by physiotherapists:

0.04%



