

Coexisting depressive symptoms do not limit the benefits of chronic neuromodulation: A study of over 200 patients

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Aims: To examine the relationship between coexisting depressive symptoms and outcomes after staged neuromodulation procedures for refractory urological symptoms.

Methods: Adults who enrolled in a prospective database and completed a Personal Health Questionnaire Depression Scale (PHQ-8) at baseline were reviewed. The PHQ-8 and Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) assessed depressive/anxiety symptoms pre and 6 months post device implant. Urological symptoms were assessed with The Interstitial Cystitis Symptom Index/Problem Index (ICSI-PI) and Overactive Bladder Questionnaire (OAB-q) at baseline, 3 and 6 months, and Global Response Assessments (GRA) post implant. Subjects, grouped by PHQ <10 and PHQ ≥10, were compared with Pearson's Chi-square, Fisher's Exact or Wilcoxon rank test, and Spearman's correlations.

Results: In 117 PHQ <10 and 84 PHQ ≥10 patients, age differed (mean 59 vs 52 years; $P = 0.001$), and PHQ <10 had lower GAD-7, ICSI-PI, and OAB-q scores at baseline ($P < 0.0001$, $P = 0.0003$, and $P < 0.0008$, respectively). Implantation rates were similar between groups. Reoperation and complication rates within the first 6 months did not differ, similar proportions (majority) were improved on the GRA at each time point, and ICSI-PI and OAB-q scores improved significantly. PHQ scores only improved significantly for those with baseline PHQ ≥10. Baseline PHQ strongly correlated with GAD-7 at baseline and 6 months, and baseline ICSI-PI. Change in PHQ positively correlated with the change in GAD-7, 6 month ICSI-PI, and change in ICSI-PI from baseline to 6 months.

Conclusions: Coexisting depressive symptoms do not limit the efficacy of neuromodulation and PHQ improvements correlate with improved anxiety and bladder symptoms.

KEYWORDS

depressive symptoms, implantable neurostimulators, overactive, urinary bladder

1 | INTRODUCTION

Urinary symptoms can disrupt social, physical, occupational, sexual, and recreational activities and as a result, have significant negative impact on the psychological and social well-being of the affected individual. Sacral neuromodulation (InterStim®; Medtronic Inc, Minneapolis, MN) is a well-established therapeutic option for patients with refractory overactive bladder (OAB) who have failed behavioral modification, pelvic floor rehabilitation, and anticholinergic therapy.¹ Although sacral neuromodulation is FDA approved for bladder and bowel symptoms, improvements can also be achieved by directly stimulating the pudendal nerves to increase afferent stimulation.² Neuromodulation is a minimally invasive, reversible treatment that has a high rate of success and a low incidence of serious adverse events.³ It has been shown that successful therapies for urinary incontinence including neuromodulation improve quality of life.⁴

Thus, over the last decade, neuromodulation has become an attractive treatment option for patients with refractory urinary urgency, frequency, and urge incontinence. Although many groups have aimed to determine predictors of response to therapy, little is known about how coexisting depressive symptoms affect initial response to, or outcomes of, neuromodulation. Siegel et al showed that neuromodulation for voiding symptoms can positively affect depression scores.⁴ On the other hand, van Balken et al⁵ found that patients with poor mental health were prone to failing neuromodulation with percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS). A review of the literature found that although coexisting depression and other affective disorders negatively impact response to medical therapy in a variety of disease processes,⁶ few have examined how depressive symptoms at baseline might affect response to chronic neuromodulation for bladder symptoms. Therefore, we explored the impact of coexisting depressive symptoms assessed by validated questionnaires on outcomes in over 200 patients undergoing neuromodulation for refractory urological symptoms.

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

After receiving Institutional Review Board approval in 2004, all patients over 18 years of age that were scheduled for a staged InterStim® procedure at our large referral center were invited to enroll in a prospective, longitudinal, observational neuromodulation database study. Participants choosing to enroll (approximately, 82-95% of eligible patients) completed questionnaires by mail at baseline (pre-treatment) and during follow-up until device explantation or voluntary withdrawal from the study. Telephone calls, and repeated mailings were conducted as needed in an attempt to obtain complete follow up data. Medical history

and surgical data, and complications, reoperations, and reprogramming sessions after implant were obtained from reviewing participants' medical records. In 2013, measures to evaluate depressive and anxiety symptoms at baseline and 6 months were added to the prospective study. This analysis represents a retrospective review of the patients enrolled in the database that completed the depression and anxiety measures prior to neuromodulation.

Some patients had office percutaneous nerve evaluation (PNE) to determine initial response to treatment, but the majority had a two-stage operative procedure, which has been previously described. Briefly, during the first procedure (Stage I), a tined quadripolar lead was implanted at either the sacral or, alternatively, the pudendal nerve and connected to an external programmable device. After testing the device for approximately 2 weeks as an outpatient, patients returned for a second procedure (Stage II). If voiding symptoms had improved by at least 50% on voiding diaries, an implantable pulse generator (IPG) was placed. If symptoms did not improve by this margin, then the lead was removed and the patient did not proceed to permanent implant.

Outcomes during the first 6 months after implant were evaluated. Depressive symptoms and anxiety were assessed at baseline and 6 months post-implant with the Personal Health Questionnaire Depression Scale (PHQ-8) and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) questionnaire. The PHQ-8 questionnaire is an 8-item validated depression scale that has been used as a screening tool in population based studies.⁷ PHQ scores are categorized as 5-9 (mild depressive symptoms), 10-14 (moderate), 15-19 (moderately severe), and ≥ 20 (severe depressive symptoms). The GAD-7 questionnaire is a 7-item validated scale to assess generalized anxiety disorder.⁸ Scores range from 0 to 21 with higher scores indicating a higher degree of anxiety and ≥ 10 has been identified as a reasonable cutoff for identifying anxiety.⁸

When the prospective data collection study began in 2004, many of our patients were undergoing neuromodulation for urinary urgency, frequency, and nocturia associated with Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome (IC/BPS), so urinary symptoms were measured in all patients with the validated Interstitial Cystitis Symptom Index and Problem Index (ICSI-PI; composite scores range from 0 to 36 with higher scores indicating more severity/bother) pre-treatment, and at 3 and 6 months post IPG implant. In 2009, the Overactive Bladder Questionnaire Short Form (OAB-q SF; validated in patients with OAB) was added to assess symptom severity (OAB-q ss) and health related quality of life (OAB-q HRQOL). Overall improvement in symptoms was assessed with scaled Global Response Assessments (GRA) between Stage I and Stage II, as well as at 3 and 6 months post IPG implant. On the GRA, patients rated overall changes in symptoms

TABLE 1 Descriptive statistics

	PHQ <10 N = 117	PHQ ≥10 N = 84	P-value
Primary indication			0.59
Fecal incontinence	2 (1.7%)	1 (1.2%)	
IC/PBS	16 (13.7%)	12 (14.3%)	
Neurological condition	5 (4.3%)	2 (2.4%)	
OAB dry	15 (12.8%)	9 (10.7%)	
OAB with UUI	43 (36.8%)	24 (28.6%)	
Pelvic pain	19 (16.2%)	23 (27.4%)	
Retention	17 (14.5%)	13 (15.5%)	
Stage 1 operative time (minutes)			0.40
Median (25th, 75th)	45 (35, 59)	43 (33, 54)	
Min to max	22 to 149	19 to 110	
Lead location			
Pudendal lead	54 (46.2%)	38 (45.2%)	0.90
Sacral lead	63 (53.9%)	46 (54.8%)	
Office PNE	15/110 (13.6%)	6/82 (7.3%)	0.17
IPG implant	96 (82.1%)	76 (90.5%)	0.09
After IPG implant:	N = 96	N = 76	
Number of reprogrammings ^a			
0	77 (80.2%)	60 (79.0%)	0.58
1	18 (18.8%)	13 (17.1%)	
2	0	2 (2.6%)	
3	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.3%)	
Number of reoperations ^a			
0	87 (90.6%)	71 (93.4%)	0.51
1	9 (9.4%)	5 (6.6%)	
Number of complications ^a	N = 95		
0	86 (90.5%)	63 (82.9%)	0.27
1	8 (8.4%)	12 (15.8%)	
2	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.3%)	

OAB, overactive bladder; UUI, urinary urge incontinence; IPG, implantable pulse generator; PNE, percutaneous nerve evaluation.

^awithin the first 6 months.

on a 7-point scale as “markedly worse, moderately worse, mildly worse, same, slightly improved, moderately improved, or markedly improved.” Treatment responders were those that reported a moderate or marked improvement on the GRA.

Subjects were grouped by baseline PHQ score <10 and ≥10 (suggesting major depressive symptoms) and compared using Pearson’s Chi-square, Fisher’s Exact or Wilcoxon rank test, and Spearman’s correlations at each separate time point. Within and between groups paired changes in patients that completed questionnaires at both baseline and 6 months were examined with Sign tests. A *P*-value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant. All analyses used the SAS® System for Windows® (version 9.3, SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, NC).

3 | RESULTS

Most patients in this longitudinal database study had enrolled prior to adding the PHQ-8 questionnaire. Therefore, of 937 patients in the database, only 201 (21.5%) with complete baseline PHQ-8 questionnaire data were selected for inclusion. Of those included, most were female (173/201; 86.1%), Caucasian (87.6%), mean age was 56.0 ± 16.3 years, and mean body mass index (BMI) was 28.7 ± 7.1. Primary indications for neuromodulation varied and reflected our clinical population: overactive bladder (*n* = 91; 67 wet, 24 dry), IC/BPS diagnosis (*n* = 42), idiopathic urinary retention (*n* = 30), voiding and pelvic pain symptoms related to IC/BPS (*n* = 28), fecal incontinence (*n* = 3), and neurological condition (*n* = 7).

TABLE 2 GAD-7 and PHQ-8 scores

	PHQ <10 N = 117	PHQ ≥10 N = 84	P-value
GAD-7	Median (25th, 75th) min to max	Median (25th, 75th) min to max	
Baseline	4 (1, 9) 0 to 17	13 (8, 19) 0 to 21	<0.0001
6 months	N = 49 1 (0, 5) 0 to 18	N = 31 8 (5, 18) 0 to 21	<0.0001
Change between baseline and 6 months	N = 49 0 (-3, 0) -11 to 15	N = 31 -2 (-8, 3) -21 to 11	0.64
Change within groups ^a	P = 0.01	P = 0.18	
PHQ-8	Mean ± SD (median) min to max	Mean ± SD (median) min to max	
Baseline	4.3 ± 3.1 (4.0) 0 to 9	15.8 ± 4.1 (15) 10 to 24	NT
6 months	N = 50 3.6 ± 3.6 (2.5) 0 to 15	N = 30 12.3 ± 6.2 (12) 0 to 23	NT
Change between baseline and 6 months	N = 50 -0.2 ± 3.8 (-0.5) -8 to 10	N = 30 -3.3 ± 6.4 (-2.5) -20 to 9	NT
Change within groups ^a	P = 0.15	P = 0.013	

GAD-7, Generalized Anxiety Disorder Questionnaire; PHQ-8, Personal Health Questionnaire Depression Scale; NT, Not Tested.

^aOnly in patients with both baseline and 6 month data.

On the PHQ-8 at baseline, 84 subjects had symptoms of major depression (PHQ scores ≥10) and of these 84 subjects, 19 subjects had scores suggestive of severe major depression (score ≥20).

When patients with PHQ <10 were compared to those with PHQ score ≥10, mean age was significantly different (59 ± 17 vs 52 ± 15 years; $P = 0.001$) but other demographics, initial success leading to IPG implantation, and operative characteristics did not differ between groups (Table 1). Since depressive and anxiety symptoms often coexist, it is not surprising that those with lower PHQ (<10) also had significantly lower scores on the GAD-7 at baseline (median 4 vs 13; $P < 0.0001$) and 6 months (median 1 vs 8; $P < 0.0001$) (Table 2). For those subjects that had both baseline and 6 month data, GAD-7 scores only improved significantly in the PHQ <10 group ($n = 49$; $P = 0.01$) and on the PHQ, only those in the PHQ ≥10 group had statistically significant improvement ($n = 30$; $P = 0.013$) (Table 2). Interestingly, the overall mean PHQ score in the PHQ ≥10

group improved enough to move from the “moderately severe depressive symptoms” into the “moderate” category.

Table 3 illustrates changes in urological symptoms after neuromodulation. At baseline, the PHQ <10 group had statistically significantly lower composite ICSI-PI ($P = 0.0003$) and OAB-q ss scores ($P = 0.0008$) compared to PHQ ≥10. In patients with data for both baseline and 6 months measures, ICSI-PI and OAB-q ss scores improved over time ($P < 0.0001$ for both groups). Similarly, the PHQ <10 group had significantly better OAB-q HRQOL scores at baseline ($P < 0.0001$) and both PHQ groups improved over time ($P = 0.005$ and $P < 0.0001$, respectively). On the GRA, similar proportions (≥50% at each time point) in both groups had improved at 2 weeks after lead placement, and at 3 and 6 months. We used Spearman correlations to examine baseline PHQ-8 scores, and the change in PHQ score between baseline and 6 months, to determine correlations with GAD-7 and ICSI-PI scores. The total PHQ-8 at baseline was strongly correlated with the baseline GAD-7 ($r = 0.74$; $P < 0.0001$), the 6 month GAD-7

TABLE 3 Urological symptom measures

	PHQ <10 N = 117	PHQ ≥10 N = 84	P-value
ICSI-PI score	Mean ± SD (median)	Mean ± SD (median)	
Baseline	N = 116 20 ± 7.5 (20)	N = 84 24 ± 8.6 (26)	0.0003
3 months	N = 62 13 ± 7.4 (12)	N = 42 14 ± 8.1 (13)	0.36
6 months	N = 51 14 ± 7.7 (13)	N = 32 13 ± 7.8 (12)	0.82
Change between baseline and 6 months	N = 51 -7.6 ± 7.9 (-6)	N = 32 -10.2 ± 7.8 (-10)	0.10
Change within groups ^a	P < 0.0001	P < 0.0001	
OAB-q symptom severity score	Median (25th,75th)	Median (25th,75th)	
Baseline	N = 115 50 (30, 67)	N = 84 67 (42, 87)	0.0008
3 months	N = 64 23 (13, 53)	N = 42 27 (13, 50)	0.86
6 months	N = 51 30 (10, 63)	N = 32 22 (15, 47)	0.48
Change between baseline and 6 months	N = 51 -17 (-37, -3.3)	N = 32 -28 (-48, -10)	0.13
Change within groups ^a	P < 0.0001	P < 0.0001	
OAB-q HRQOL score	Median (25th,75th)	Median (25th,75th)	
Baseline	N = 115 58 (35, 72)	N = 84 29 (18, 56)	<0.0001
3 months	N = 64 61 (42, 79)	N = 41 77 (49, 91)	0.40
6 months	N = 51 82 (42, 93)	N = 32 76 (56, 92)	0.87
Change between baseline and 6 months	N = 51 15 (-3.3, 35)	N = 32 30 (9.2, 45)	0.051
Change within groups ^a	P = 0.005	P < 0.0001	
Global response assessments (moderately/markedly improved)			
Between stages I and II	55/81 (67.9%)	49/60 (81.7%)	0.066
3 months	36/64 (56.3%)	21/42 (50%)	0.53
6 months	28/51 (54.9%)	21/32 (65.6%)	0.33

ICSI-PI, Interstitial Cystitis Symptom and Problem Index; OAB-q, Overactive Bladder Questionnaire; HRQOL, Health Related Quality of Life.

^aOnly in patients with both baseline and 6 months data.

score ($r = 0.62$; $P < 0.0001$) and the baseline total ICSI-PI score ($r = 0.29$; $P < 0.0001$) but not correlated with the change in GAD-7, the 6 month total ICSI-PI score or the change in total ICSI-PI score. The change in total PHQ-8 score (between baseline and 6 months) was somewhat negatively correlated with the baseline total GAD-7 ($r = -0.34$; $P = 0.0017$), but correlated positively with the change in GAD-7 score ($r = 0.55$; $P < 0.0001$), the ICSI-PI score at 6 months ($r = 0.33$; $P = 0.0025$) and the change in ICSI-PI score ($r = 0.33$; $P = 0.0027$). These correlations provide further evidence of association between depressive and anxiety symptoms, and their impact on problematic bladder symptoms.

Although the primary focus of the study was to examine the impact of depressive symptoms on neuromodulation outcomes, we also compared patients grouped by GAD score <10 and ≥10 (Table 4). Similar to the analysis of patients grouped by PHQ-8 scores, IPG implantation rate did not differ, but significantly fewer complications were seen in those with lower anxiety scores (GAD <10) ($P = 0.018$). Not surprisingly, the GAD <10 group had lower baseline PHQ-8 ($P < 0.0001$), ICSI-PI ($P = 0.0004$) and OAB-q ss ($P = 0.004$) scores, and higher OAB-q HRQOL scores ($P < 0.0001$). Although PHQ scores only decreased significantly in the GAD ≥10 group ($P = 0.036$), both groups

TABLE 4 Comparison of patients grouped by baseline GAD score

	GAD <10 N = 119	GAD ≥10 N = 82	P-value
IPG implant	98 (82.4%)	74 (90.2%)	0.12
After IPG implant:			
Number of reoperations	<i>N</i> = 98	<i>N</i> = 74	0.58
0	91 (92.9%)	67 (90.5%)	
1	7 (7.1%)	7 (9.5%)	
Number of complications	<i>N</i> = 98	<i>N</i> = 73	0.018
0	91 (92.9%)	58 (79.5%)	
1	7 (7.1%)	13 (17.8%)	
2	0	2 (2.7%)	
PHQ-8	Median (25th,75th)	Median (25th,75th)	
Baseline	<i>N</i> = 119 5 (2, 9)	<i>N</i> = 82 15 (9, 18)	<0.0001
6 months	<i>N</i> = 50 3 (1, 6)	<i>N</i> = 30 11.5 (5, 18)	<0.0001
Change between baseline and 6 months	<i>N</i> = 50 -1 (-2, 1)	<i>N</i> = 30 -2.5 (-8, 1)	0.047
Change within groups ^a	<i>P</i> = 0.08	<i>P</i> = 0.036	
ICSI-PI score	Mean ± SD (median)	Mean ± SD (median)	
Baseline	<i>N</i> = 118 19.5 ± 8.0 (19.5)	<i>N</i> = 82 23.5 ± 8.0 (25)	0.0004
3 months	<i>N</i> = 63 13.0 ± 7.6 (11)	<i>N</i> = 41 13.7 ± 7.8 (12)	0.67
6 months	<i>N</i> = 50 12.9 ± 8.2 (12)	<i>N</i> = 33 14.2 ± 6.9 (13)	0.41
Change between baseline and 6 months	<i>N</i> = 50 -7.3 ± 7.1 (-6)	<i>N</i> = 33 -10.5 ± 8.7 (-10)	0.08
Change within groups ^a	<i>P</i> < 0.0001	<i>P</i> < 0.0001	
Global response assessments (moderately/markedly improved)	<i>N</i> (%)	<i>N</i> (%)	
Between stages 1 and 2	60/84 (71.4%)	44/57 (77.2%)	0.45
3 months	36/64 (56.3%)	21/42 (50.0%)	0.53
6 months	28/50 (56.0%)	21/33 (63.6%)	0.49
OAB-q symptom severity score	Median (25th,75th)	Median (25th,75th)	
Baseline	<i>N</i> = 118 50 (27, 70)	<i>N</i> = 81 63 (43, 83)	0.004
3 months	<i>N</i> = 64 23 (13, 53)	<i>N</i> = 42 25 (13, 47)	0.55
6 months	<i>N</i> = 50 28 (13, 63)	<i>N</i> = 33 23 (17, 50)	0.88
Change between baseline and 6 months	<i>N</i> = 50 -19 (-33, -3.3)	<i>N</i> = 33 -27 (-50, -10)	0.15
Change within groups ^a	<i>P</i> < 0.0001	<i>P</i> < 0.0001	
OAB-q HRQOL score	Median (25th,75th)	Median (25th,75th)	
Baseline	<i>N</i> = 118 58 (32, 74)	<i>N</i> = 81 32 (18, 57)	<0.0001
3 months	<i>N</i> = 64 81 (61, 94)	<i>N</i> = 41 77 (40, 88)	0.21
6 months	<i>N</i> = 50 82 (42, 95)	<i>N</i> = 33 75 (54, 85)	0.34
Change between baseline and 6 months	<i>N</i> = 50 13 (-3.1, 34)	<i>N</i> = 33 31 (14, 48)	0.018
Change within groups ^a	<i>P</i> = 0.004	<i>P</i> < 0.0001	

IPG, Implantable Pulse Generator; PHQ-8, Personal Health Questionnaire Depression Scale; ICSI-PI, Interstitial Cystitis Symptom and Problem Index; OAB-q, Overactive Bladder Questionnaire; HRQOL, Health Related Quality of Life.

^aOnly in patients with both baseline and 6 month data.

demonstrated significant improvements over time on the ICSI-PI, OAB-q ss, and OAB-q HRQOL measures.

4 | DISCUSSION

Concomitant affective disorders, particularly depression, have been shown to affect outcomes, complications, and response to treatment.^{6,9,10} Yet, little is known about the impact on neuromodulation outcomes even though depressive symptoms are associated with bladder symptoms.¹¹ Burg et al¹⁰ dichotomized patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting based on preoperative depression scores and found that depression was a significant predictor of hospitalization, ongoing pain, and failure to return to previous activity levels, all at 6 months post operatively. In a study of psychosocial factors related to neuromodulation use, Levin et al¹² demonstrated significant improvements in depression after treatment but did not evaluate whether baseline depression predicted overall outcomes. Another group found that patients with poor mental health were more prone to failing neuromodulation treatment for overactive bladder with percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS).⁵ More recently, 86 men and women with OAB or non-obstructive urinary retention were retrospectively studied to explore the impact of anxiety and depression on neuromodulation response.¹³ Conducted in Europe, the study examined the relationship between baseline depressive/anxiety symptoms assessed with the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, voiding diaries and urodynamics, and neuromodulation response initially and at 1 year.¹³ Similar to the results reported here, there was no significant relationship between abnormal depressive/anxiety symptom scores and failure to respond to neuromodulation. However, the study did not evaluate changes in depressive/anxiety or urological symptom outcomes over time.

We sought to examine whether depressive symptoms as measured by PHQ-8 would portend any change in symptom response, outcomes, or complications over the short term after neuromodulation therapy. This study did not demonstrate an inferior response to neuromodulation among patients exhibiting major depressive symptoms (PHQ-8 scores ≥ 10). It is worth noting that at baseline, those with PHQ-8 scores ≥ 10 had significantly higher ICSI-PI and OAB-q ss scores suggesting a higher level of initial urinary bother. This is not surprising since OAB has been associated with affective symptoms,¹¹ and OAB patients with depression report more severe urinary incontinence symptoms, greater bother and more impact on quality of life.¹⁴ Measuring the impact of neuromodulation on depressive symptoms was not the aim of

this study, but depressive symptoms did decrease significantly over 6 months after neuromodulation in those with PHQ-8 scores ≥ 10 at baseline. Although interesting, this finding may be due to the fact that significant decreases in scores are likely more probable in those that have more room for improvement (higher baseline scores). Also, the similar outcomes in patients when examined categorized by PHQ and GAD scores separately highlights the known association between depressive and anxiety symptoms. Even though patients undergoing neuromodulation for OAB may have coexisting depression and/or anxiety, and poor mental health has been shown to negatively influence response to neuromodulation with PTNS⁵, our results suggest that pre-existing or concomitant depressive symptoms may not limit the therapeutic benefits of neuromodulation with an implanted device.

In addition to symptom improvements, complications, reoperations, and device explantations are also outcomes important to both clinicians and patients. Overall, lower reoperation and complication rates were found in this study compared to some other published results.³ These findings may be attributable to differences in length of follow-up or definitions of reoperations or complications. Even though our data did not suggest that patients with depressive symptoms have higher complication or reoperation rates, we only evaluated these outcomes over 6 months and longer follow-up may reveal differences between groups. Notwithstanding, achieving symptom improvements to justify device implant and improve quality of life while avoiding complications or reoperation, are key goals for both patients and clinicians.

Strengths of our study include sample size, use of validated questionnaires, and the prospective collection of pre and post implant data, which also enabled the study of changes in affective and urinary symptoms over time. Limitations include a potential for selection bias since not all patients undergoing neuromodulation elected to enroll in our prospective data collection study. Additionally, not all patients returned questionnaires at every time point and it is possible that not all complications were captured if treated outside our institution. The questionnaires used in this study assessed changes in symptoms for the most common neuromodulation indications at our center, however, future studies might examine other less common indications with condition specific validated measures. Our study sample was predominantly women and patients presented with a variety of voiding/storage symptoms, which is representative of our clinical population undergoing neuromodulation. Even though the site of lead placement (pudendal or sacral) and indications for neuromodulation varied, it is unlikely that these differences influenced outcomes since these data did not differ significantly between groups.

5 | CONCLUSIONS

This study suggests that coexisting depressive symptoms do not limit the efficacy or therapeutic benefits of neuromodulation for refractory bladder symptoms over the short term. As such, depressive symptoms should not preclude neuromodulation device placement in appropriately selected patients and it is reasonable to expect similar outcomes for these patients. Future studies might more fully explore changes in psychological symptoms after neuromodulation as well as outcomes over the long term.

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Kenneth M. Peters reports personal fees from Medtronic, outside the submitted work. The primary author and all other co-authors have nothing to disclose.

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