

# Tertiary neurectomy for recurrent pain after posterior neurectomy in Anterior Cutaneous Nerve Entrapment Syndrome

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## Treatment algorithm for ACNES

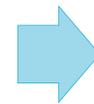
Tender point injections with lidocaine



Pulsed RadioFrequency Treatment (PRF)



Anterior Neurectomy



Posterior Neurectomy

## Introduction

- The posterior neurectomy is considered the final surgical treatment option for ACNES. However, approximately 20% of patients who undergo a successful posterior neurectomy experience recurrent pain
- Treatment of these patients with recurrent pain has not yet been described in the literature
- In the current study, we evaluate treatment outcomes of surgical vs conservative treatment options for these patients

## Methods

- Patients with recurrent pain after posterior neurectomy, treated at SolviMáx between Jan 2012 and Feb 2023, received a follow-up questionnaire in Dec 2023
- Patients were stratified based on received treatment(s):
  - Re-do posterior (tertiary) neurectomy
  - Conservative treatments (paramedical, pharmacological, tender point injections, TENS)
- Treatment succes was defined based on:
  - Pain score: >50% pain reduction lasting >3 months
  - Patient Global Impression of Change (PGIC) rated higher than 'much improved'

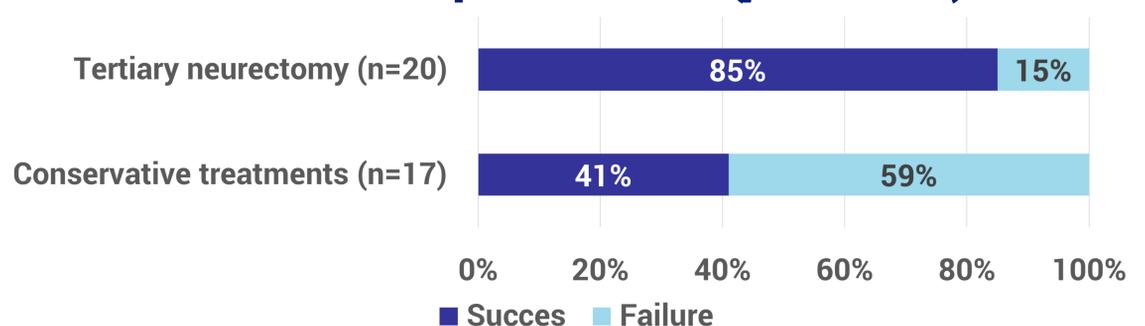
## Conclusion

- Patients who underwent a tertiary neurectomy showed better treatment success based on both pain score and PGIC after a 40 month follow-up
- Tertiary neurectomy should be considered in ACNES patients with recurrent pain after an initially successful posterior neurectomy

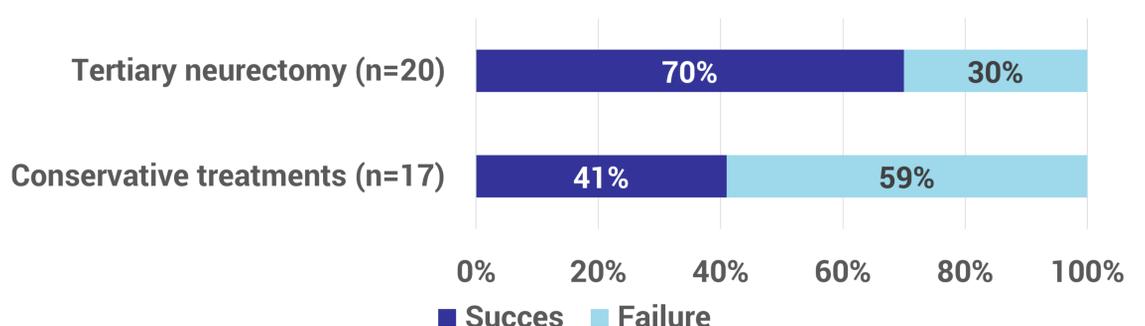
## Results

- 65% (37/57) patients were included after completing the questionnaire
- Median follow-up of 40 months

### Succes based on pain score ( $p=0.008$ )



### Succes based on PGIC ( $p=0.018$ )



- Intraoperatively, nerve fibers were identified in all 20 patients
- A neuroma was found in 15% (n=3)
- A wound infection developed in 5% (n=1)

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