



# perineology

## LATEST NEWS FROM THE GROUPEMENT EUROPEEN DE PERINEOLOGIE

### EDITORIAL: PERINEOLOGY OR PELVIPERINEOLOGY: THE SAME GOAL BUT DIFFERENT APPROACHES

The name *perineology* was used for the first time in 1990 by Giuseppe Dodi. This colo-proctological surgeon used the name in an editorial of the journal *Rivista Italiana di Colon-proctologia* to speak about a new speciality dedicated to the management of all the functional pelvic floor disorders.<sup>1</sup>

Independently, a group of French and Belgian physicians and physiotherapists created the Groupement Européen de Périnéologie (GEP) and developed the concept of perineology, wrote a book about the subject<sup>2</sup> and published the definition of perineology<sup>2-6</sup> developing the subject well beyond Dodi's original vision.

*According to this group, perineology can be described as:*

- an interdisciplinary (only one specialist dealing with the patient), three axis (gynaecological, urological and coloproctological) and holistic approach to the patient
- dealing only with the functional problems of the perineum
- using “defect specific” treatments (restoration ad integrum)
- avoiding side effects on each of the three axis (primum non nocere)

Because of the strong limits of the concept (avoiding certain surgical procedures, only one specialist dealing with the patient...) and of a more “from the top” (endopelvic) vision of the pelvic floor, some physicians in France and Italy are more comfortable with the term *pelviperineology*. *Pelviperineology* includes all the aspects of the management of the pelvic floor without any restriction and refers to a more multidisciplinary approach.

Whilst *perineology* and *pelviperineology* are both using a global approach to obtain better patient outcomes, there may be differences in how this goal is achieved but confrontation of ideas is the only way to progress. It will be our pleasure to present a “GEP's corner” in the journal to review regularly some aspects of *perineology* and to introduce the concept to those of you who may be interested in learning more about this exciting and evolving area of medicine.

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Jack Mouchel (*Le Mans, France*)

#### References

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2. Beco J, Mouchel J, Nelissen G. *La Périnéologie... comprendre un équilibre et le préserver.* Verviers (Belgium): Odyssee 1998; 1372.
3. Beco J, De Bisschop G, Dijkstra R, Nelissen G, Mouchel J. [Perineology...reaching equilibrium and preserving it?]. *J Gynecol Obstet Biol Reprod (Paris)* 1999; 28: 855-6.
4. Beco J, Mouchel J. *La périnéologie: un nouveau nom, un nouveau concept, une nouvelle spécialité...* *Gunaïkeia* 2000; 5: 212-214.
5. Beco J, Mouchel J. *Understanding the concept of perineology.* *Int Urogynecol J Pelvic Floor Dysfunct* 2002; 13: 275-7.
6. Beco J, Mouchel J. *Perineology: a new area.* *Urogynaecologia International Journal* 2003; 17: 79-86.

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#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

### 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN PELVIC FLOOR SOCIETY

CAIRO, EGYPT APRIL 3-5 2008 - [www.mspfd.org](http://www.mspfd.org)

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