

# External urethral sphincter

## Original section by Salvador Gil Vernet, 1942

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**Abstract:** In the 1940s, Salvador Gil Vernet provided the first description of the external urethral sphincter as a vertically arranged tubular structure, refuting the existence of a plate of muscle arranged transversely between the two ischiopubic rami. An error that was established in atlases and anatomy textbooks until the end of the twentieth century.

**Keywords:** External urethral sphincter; Histology; Foetus

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In the drawing (Fig. 1) we can see the rectum (R), prostate (P), levator ani muscles (LA), obturator internus muscle (OI), ischiopubic rami (IR), neurovascular bundles (NVB), extensions of the pelvic plexus, the external urethral sphincter (asterisks) surrounding the prostatomembranous urethra (U), ischiopubic rami (IR), Alcock's canal with the internal pudendal nerves and vessels (AC), perineal membrane (dots), crura of the corpus cavernosum (CC), ischiocavernosus muscles (IC), penile bulb (PB) and bulbospongiosus muscle (BS).

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Figure 1. Oblique coronal section from a 6-month foetus. 40 \*µ\*m. H&E stain. Year 1942.