EXCITING NEW REHABILITATION INTERVENTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY

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OUTLINE

- Systems for extremity electrical stimulation
- Ventilation options
- New forms of gait training

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Please note that the videos were removed due to the size of the video files

Systems for extremity (and trunk) electrical stimulation

- Basic science—
- Nerve and muscle are both electrically excitable
- Electrically stimulating a nerve causes an action potential, and the
- Contraction of an innervated muscle
- Direct muscle stimulation can cause contraction of the muscle
- Innervated muscle is much easier to stimulate than Denervated muscle

Why go through the trouble?

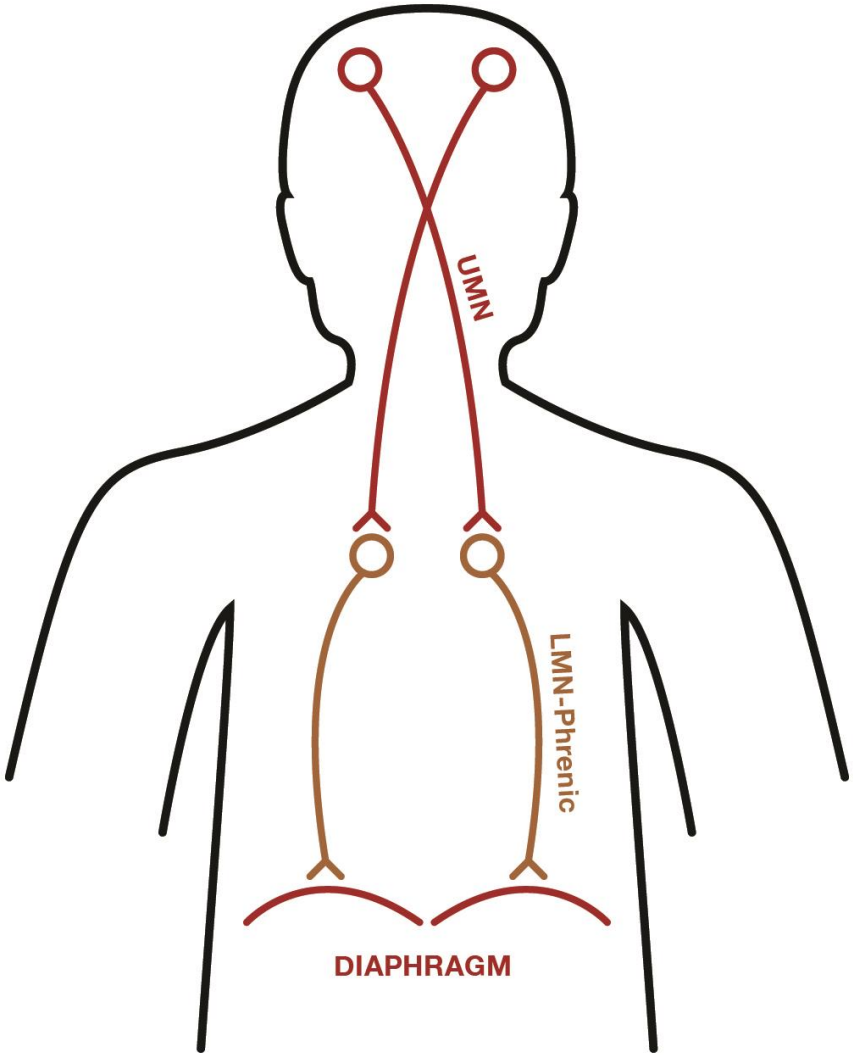
- Electrical stimulation of muscle will bring about strengthening—even if otherwise paralyzed
- Cardiovascular exercise
- Function

Ventilation options

- Basic science:
- The essential respiratory problem after SCI may not primarily involve the lungs
- The issue is loss of muscle function to <u>ventilate</u>

Nerve or muscle can be stimulated

- Nerve via phrenic stimulation—PNS
- Muscle via diaphragm pacing system--DPS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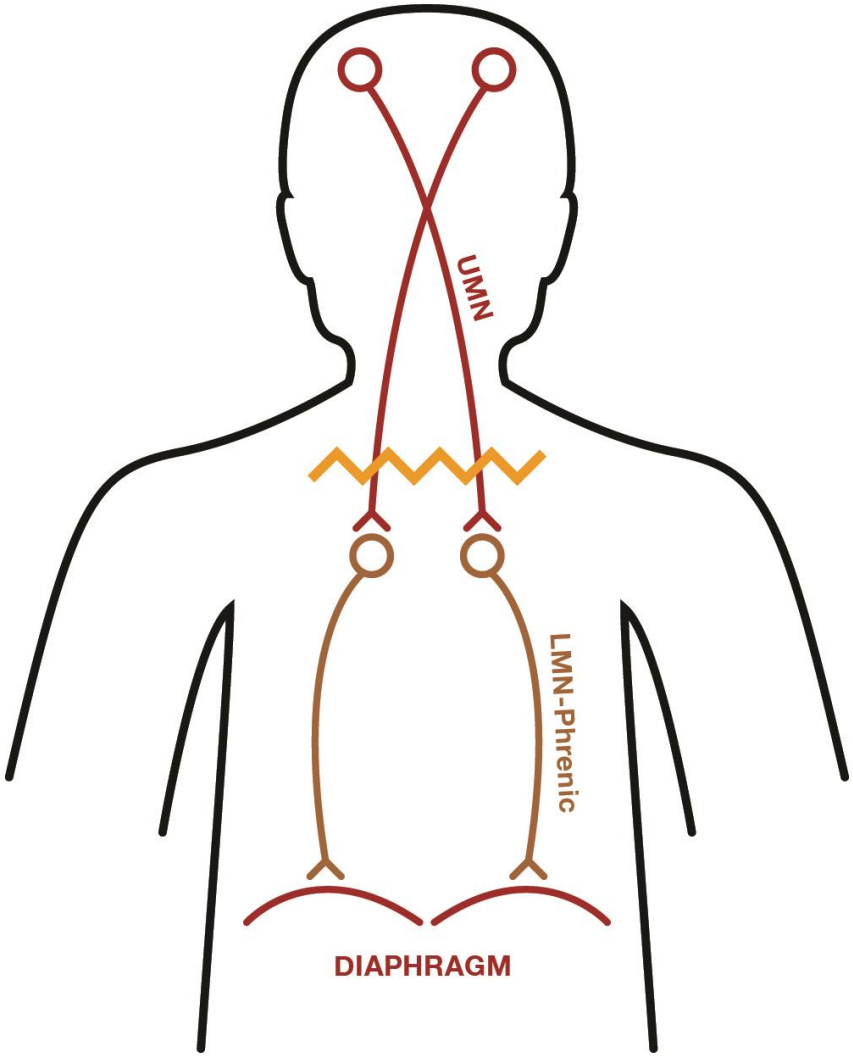
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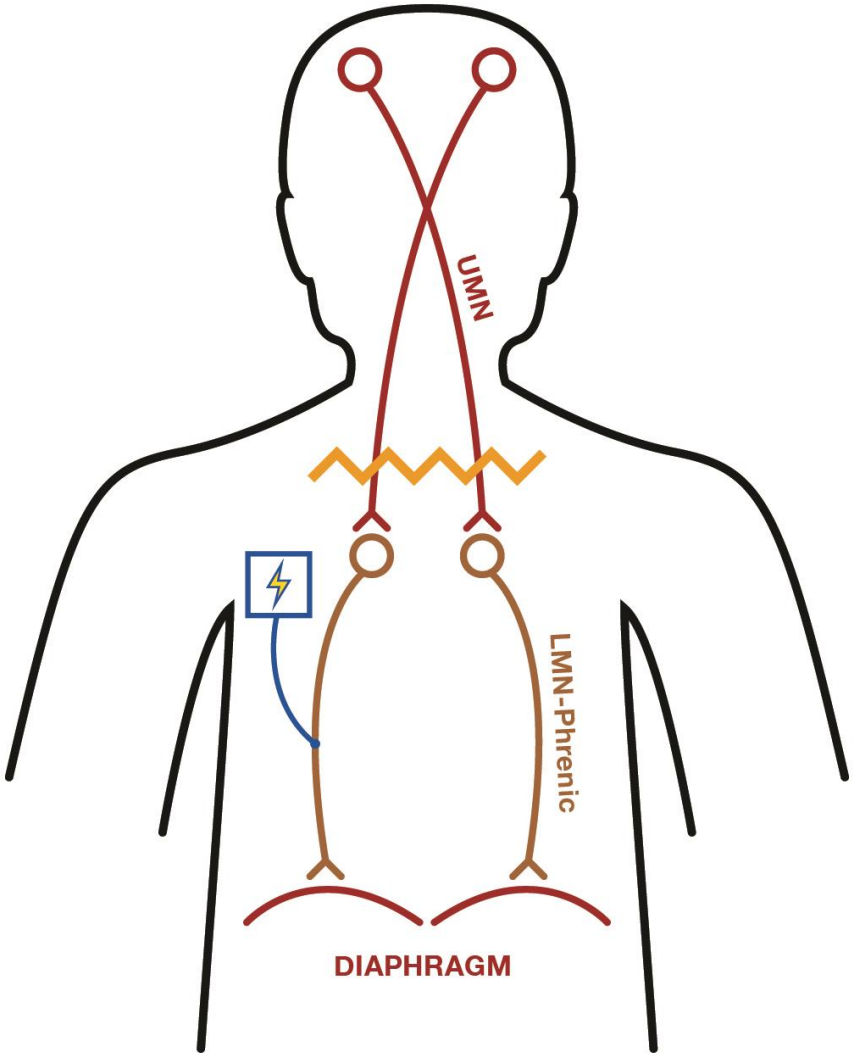
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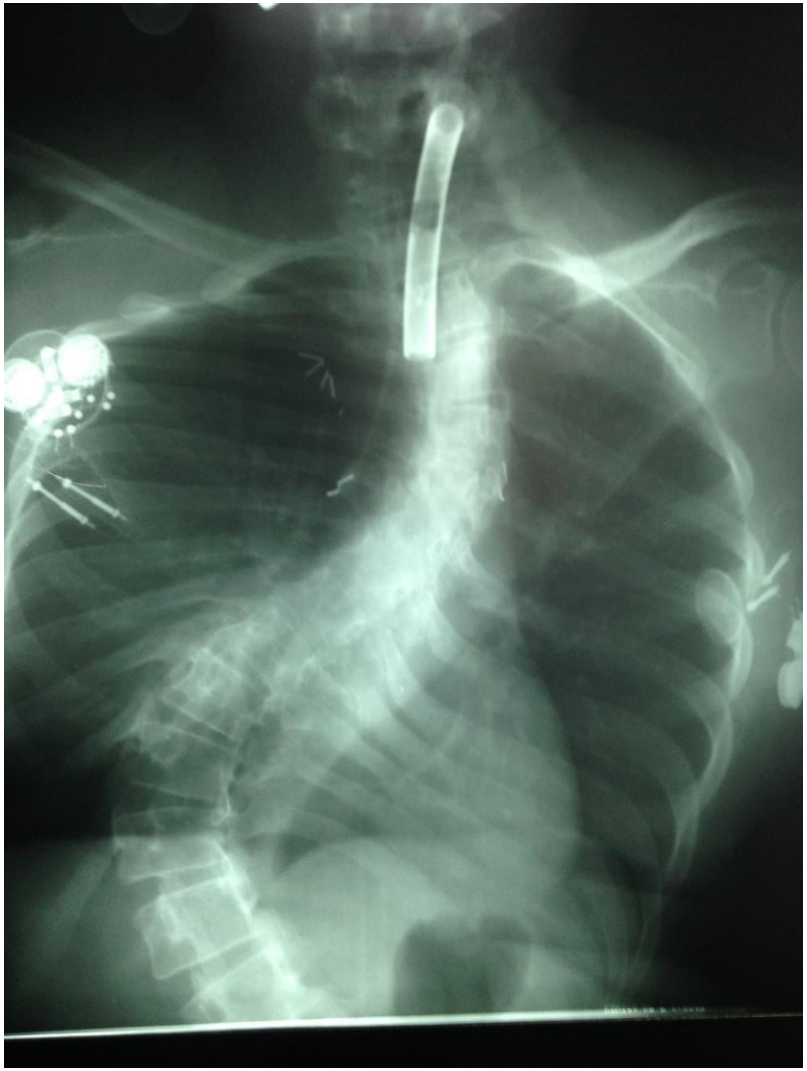
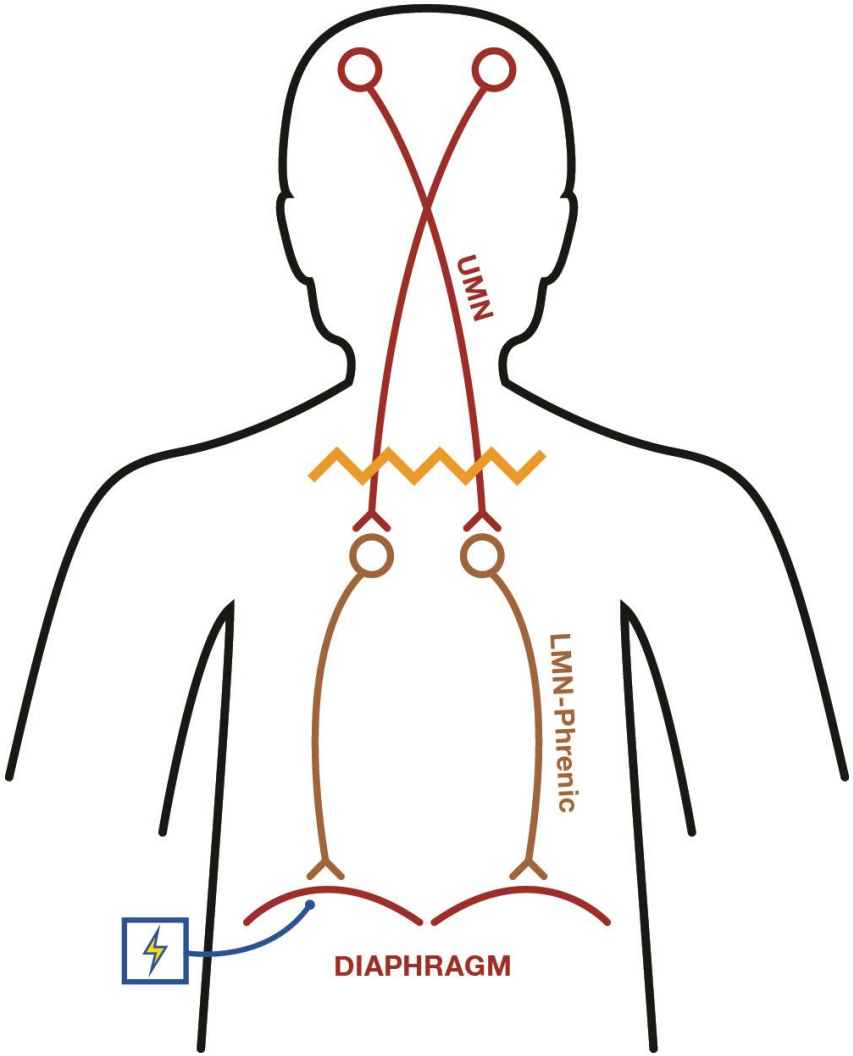
Phrenic nerve pacing

Implanted system; nothing through the skin

Challenging surgery

Diaphragm must be conditioned

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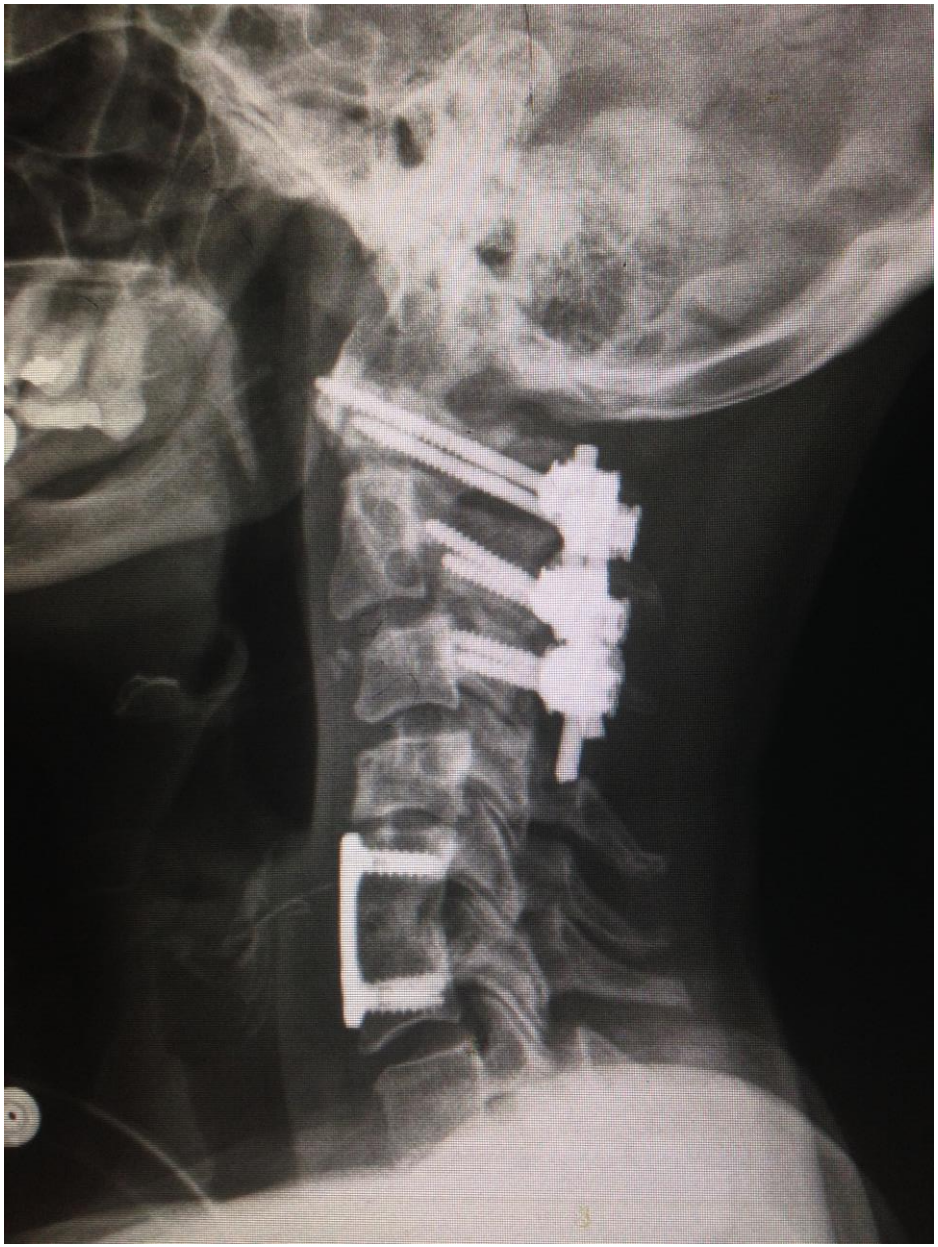
Diaphragm Pacing System

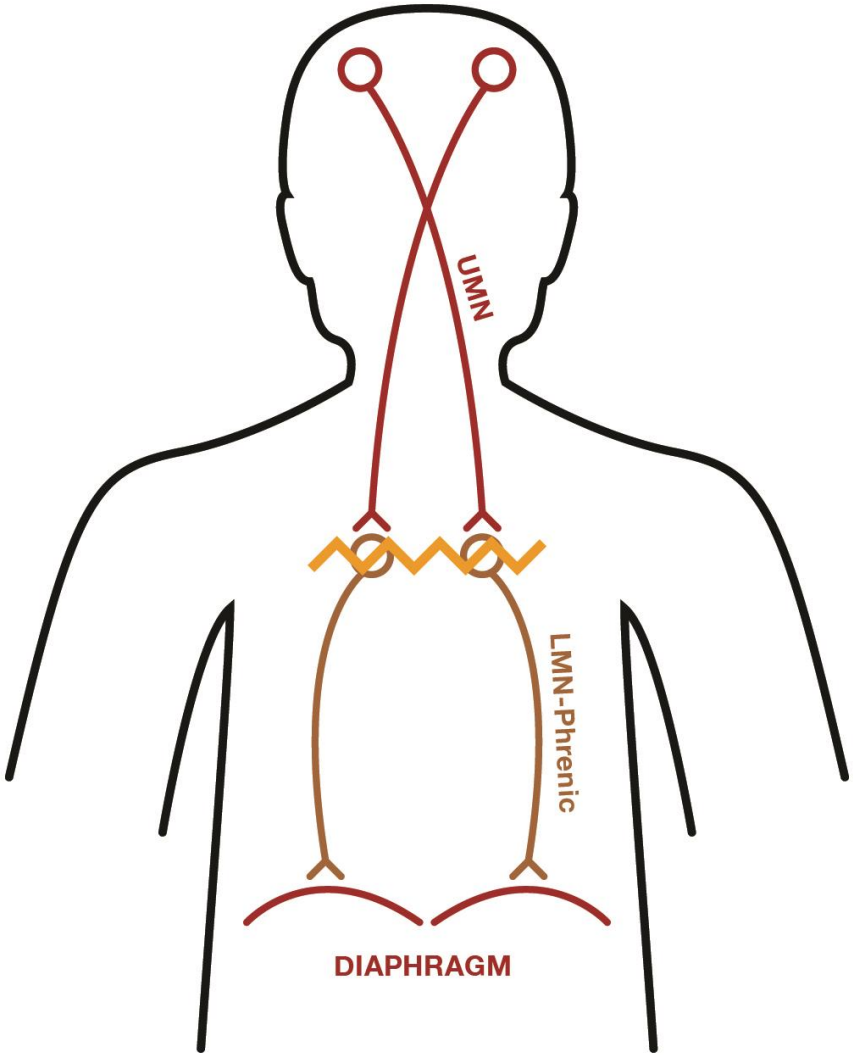
DPS

- Relatively easy to place …
- Diaphragm must be conditioned
- A “bridge”, or a “destination”
- Parameters are managed externally
- “Percutaneous”




THIS IS
Lazy
Days


INSPIRE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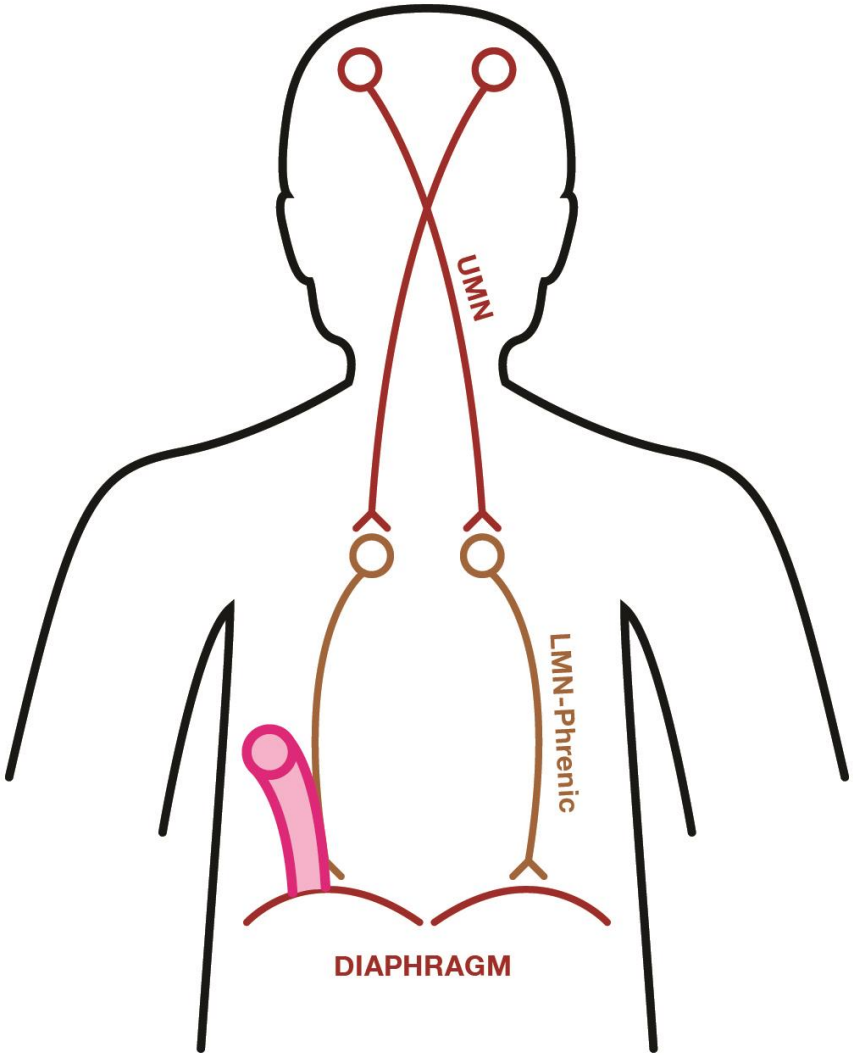
Denervated diaphragm

- No phrenic nerve to stimulate
- Denervated diaphragm can't be stimulated
- Approach: nerve grafts to innervate the diaphragm—THEN nerve stimulation or DPS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Why go through the trouble?

- Less tethering
- Less noise
- Satisfaction of using body's own machinery to ventilate
- Improved sense of taste and smell

New forms of gait training

- Basis science:
- Stegasaurus
- Chicken
- Perhaps a less discrete spinal center in higher animals and humans—“spinal stepping center”
- Hess’s law
- Spinalized cats underwent treadmill training and developed rudimentary stepping

Why go through the trouble?

- Traditional exercise and gait training doesn't allow free movement of the arms; they don't swing in sync with the lower limbs
- Velocity more natural
- Input through the lower limbs is optimized

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