



Mechanical Factors in the Reflux Barrier

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"MAGNIFICENT AND SPELLBINDING." —DAVID McCULLOUGH

402

WALTER ISAACSON

ies. As he had done with machines, he illustrated body parts using exploded views, multiple angles, and stacked-up layers (fig. 104). He studied the movements of various muscles and bones, as if they operated like strings and levers, and he found that the joints between bones

Predicting Function from the Structure

end in bones adjoining one another," he explained. "They never arise and end on one and the same bone because nothing would be able to move." It all added up to an ingenious mechanism of moving parts: "The joints between bones obey the tendon, and the tendon obeys the muscle, and the muscle the nerve."¹⁴

PHYSIOLOGICAL REVIEWS

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Esophageal Motility

FRANZ J. INGELFINGER



An incompetent EGJ (low tone and intermittent relaxations) leads to GERD and overtly competent sphincter (impaired relaxation) leads to Achalasia. Most of benign & even some malignant (**Barrett's esophagus and adenocarcinoma**) disorder of the esophagus are due to dysfunctional sphincter.

The barrier has been credited to several entities, acting independently or in concert. In general, three categories of mechanisms have been postulated;

- 1) Pinching or angulation of the esophagus by diaphragmatic action (**Crural Diaphragm**)
- 2) Valvular structure created by the oblique entry of esophagus into stomach or mucosal redundancy (**Flap Valve**)

3) **Function Does Not Match with Anatomy**

The importance of each of these mechanisms can be supported – or challenged – on the basis of evidence, that is voluminous but inconclusive.

Ironically enough, inferential evidence drawn from anatomical realities (or supposed realities) suffers from insufficient physiologic study; controversy, **the nicest function phenomenon lack morphological basis**

Pathophysiology of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease



Jan Tack¹



John E. Pandolfino²

Under normal circumstances, reflux into the esophagus is prevented by the anti-reflux barrier, which is a complex anatomic zone made up of multiple components, including the lower esophageal sphincter, the extrinsic crural diaphragm, and the supporting structures of the gastro-esophageal flap valve. When these protective components are compromised, the deleterious effects are additive, resulting in increasing numbers of reflux events and

Gastroenterology 2018;154:277–288

Techniques to Measure LES Pressure

Balloons (oncometry) air filled balloon – Kronecker H, Meltzer S

Open tip catheters – Charlie Code - high pressure zone identification

Infusion manometry – Lauren D Harris - LES pressure, not HH important GERD

Sleeve Sensor – John Dent – Transient LES relaxation

Electrode Sleeve Sensor – Ravinder Mittal – Crural diaphragm

High Resolution Manometry/Color topography – Ray Clouse

3D LES manometry – Peter Kahrilas

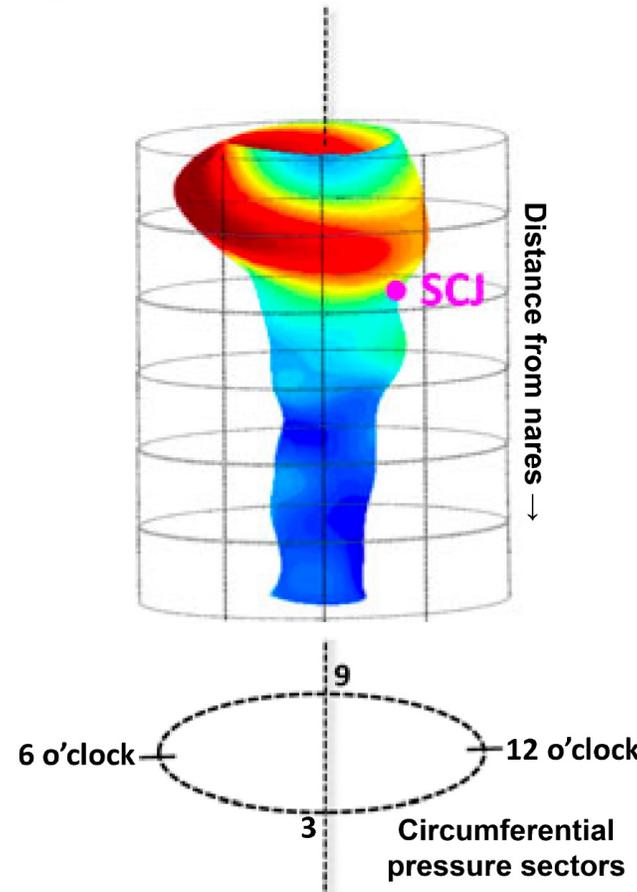
Functional Luminal Imaging Probe – Hans Gregersen

3D-high resolution manometry of the esophagogastric junction

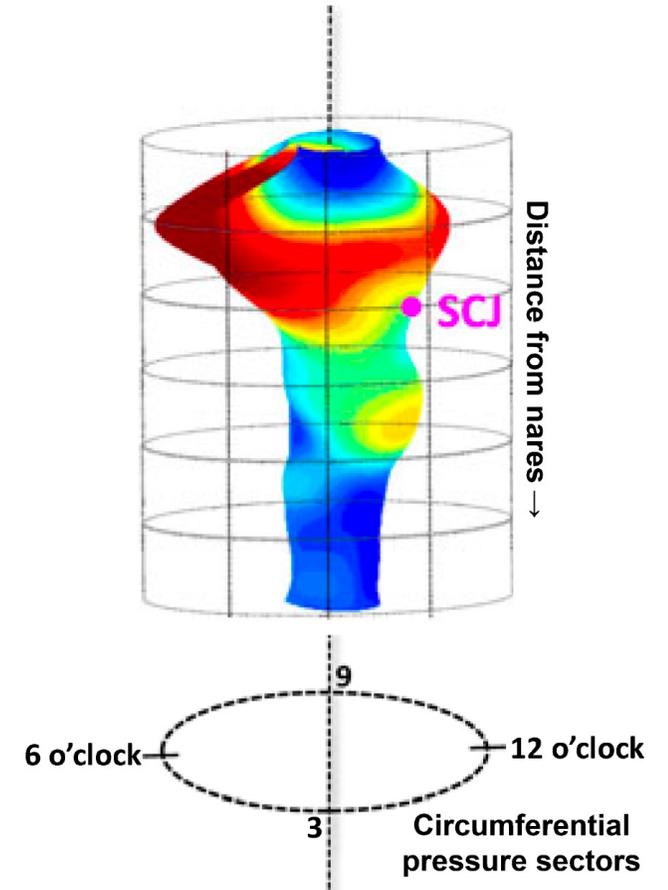
M. A. KWIATEK, J. E. PANDOLFINO & P. J. KAHRILAS

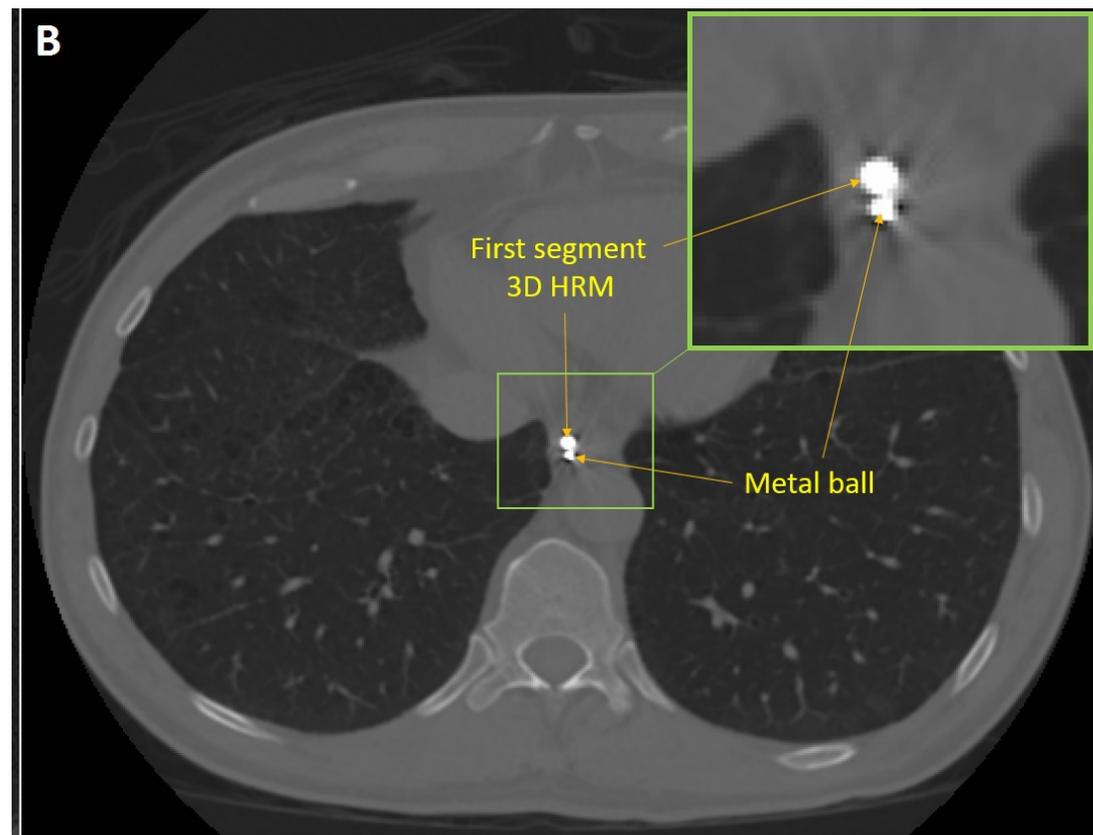
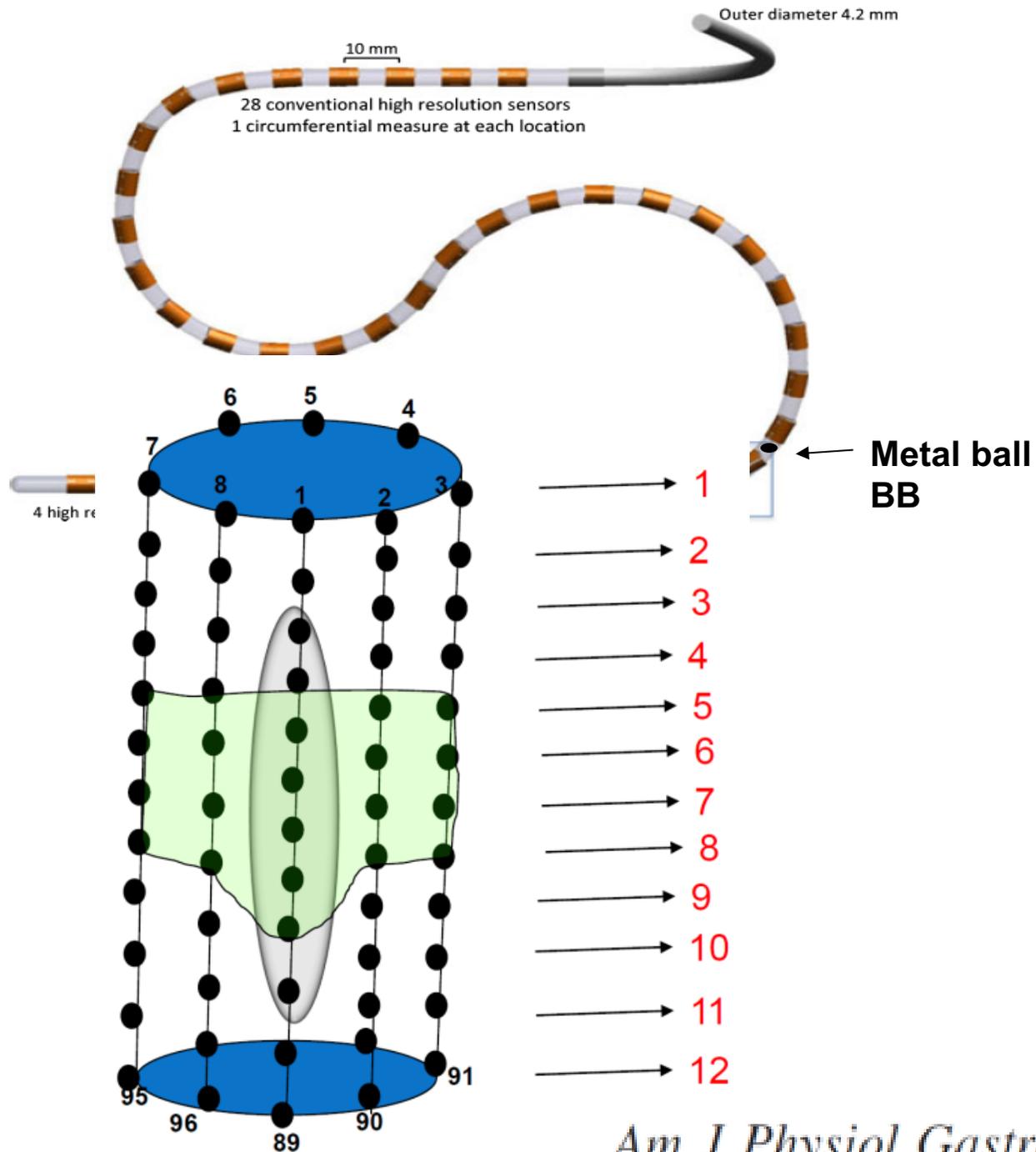
- Circumferential Asymmetry of LES
- Circumferential Asymmetry of Crural Diaphragm (EGJP)
- EGJ High Pressure Zone is longer on one side

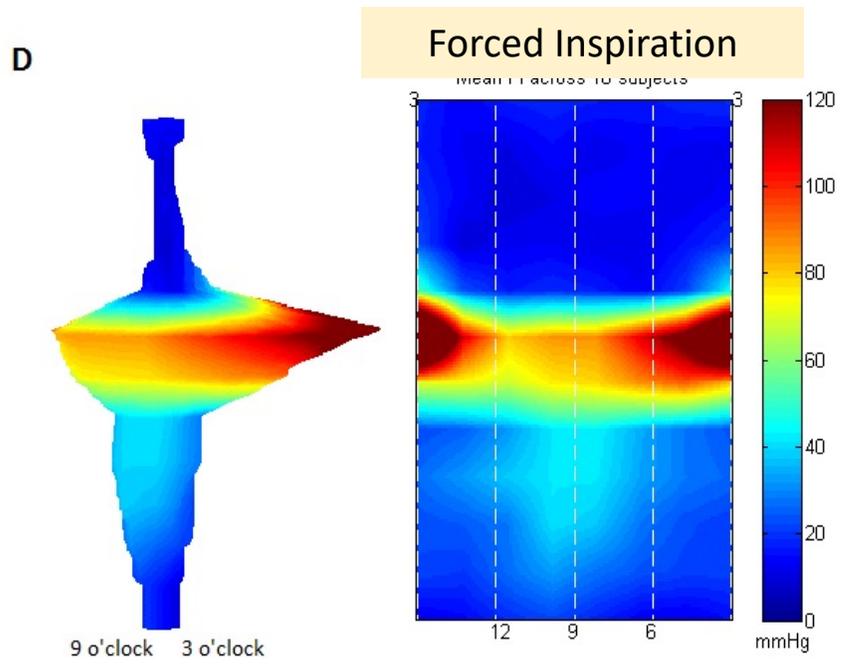
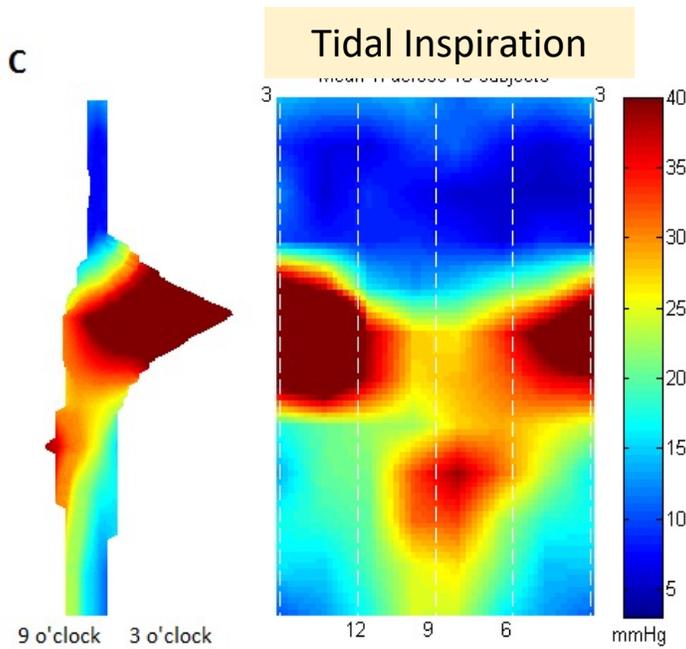
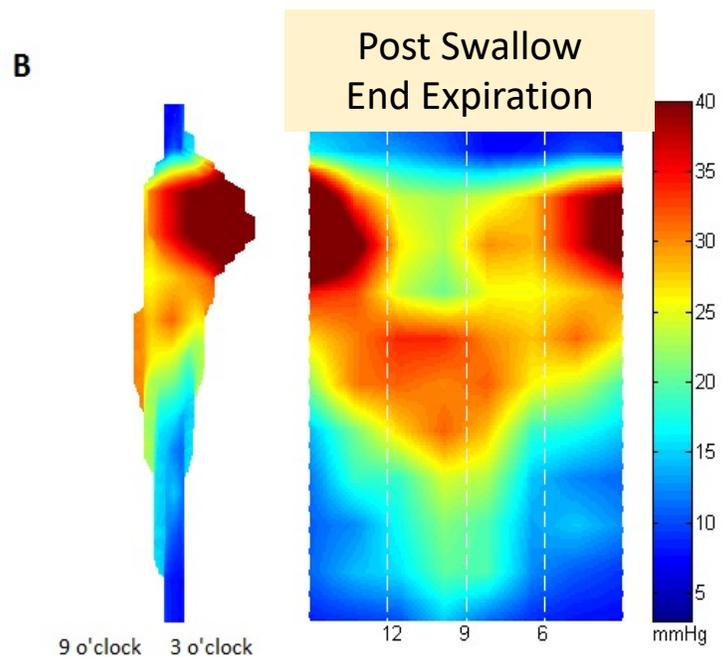
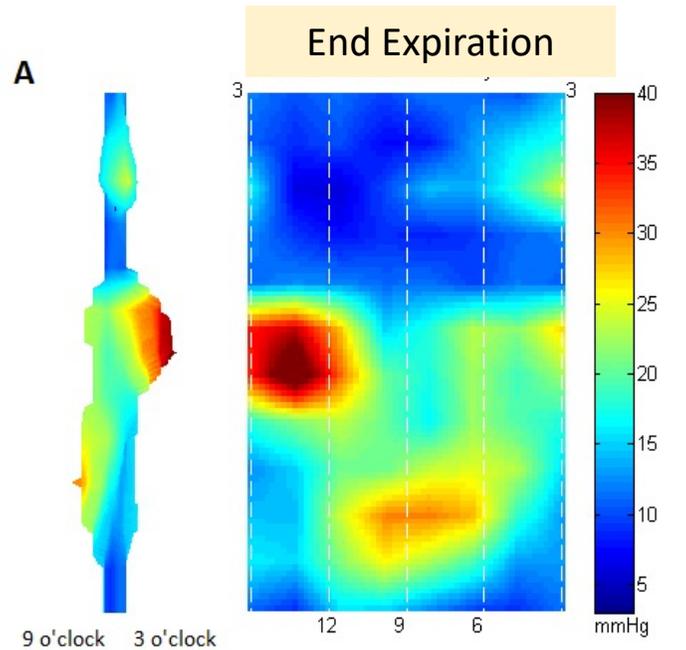
Expiration



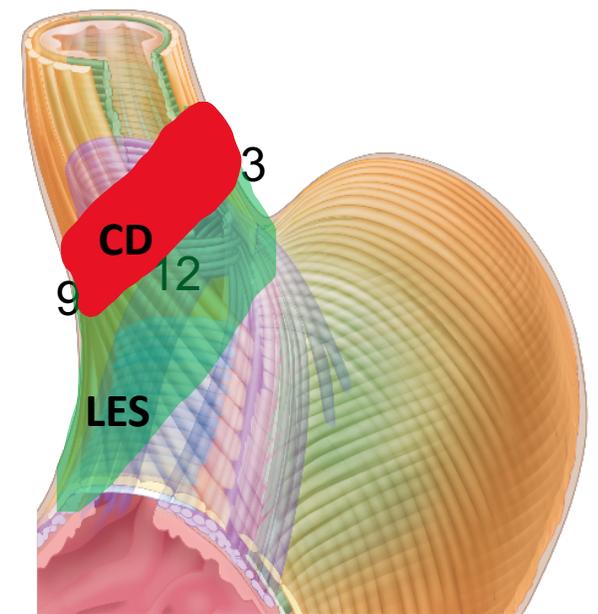
Inspiration







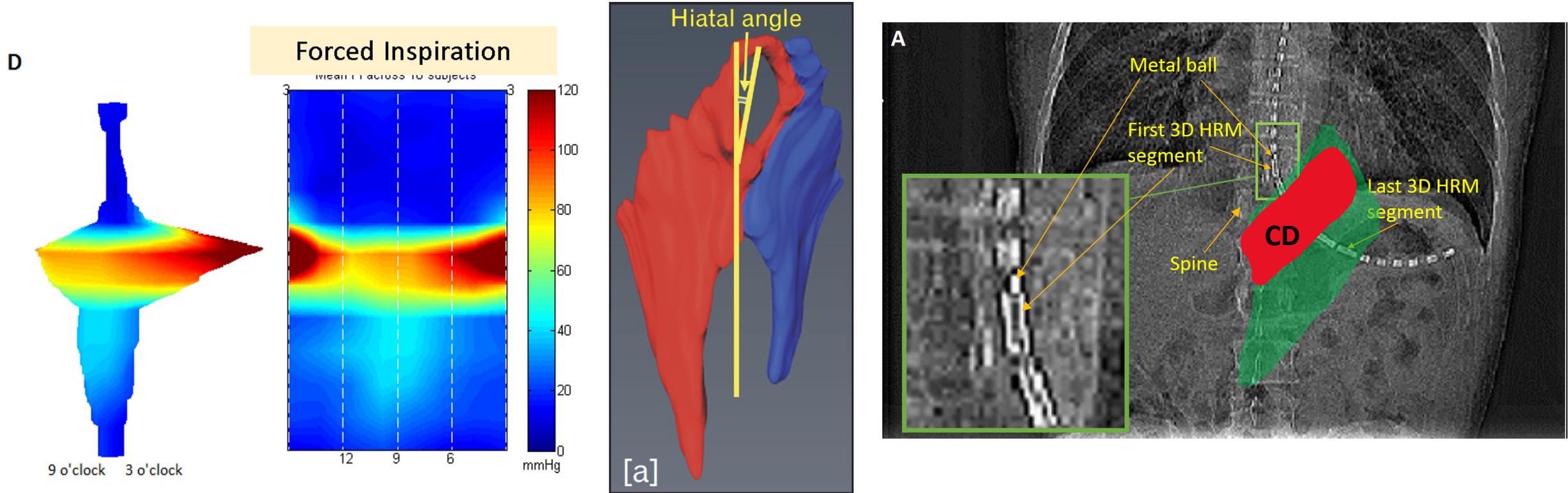
in EGJ Pressure Profile (n=10)



Circumferential Orientation

- 12 O' clock – anterior**
- 6 O' clock – posterior**
- 9 O' clock – lesser curvature**
- 3 O' clock – greater curvature**

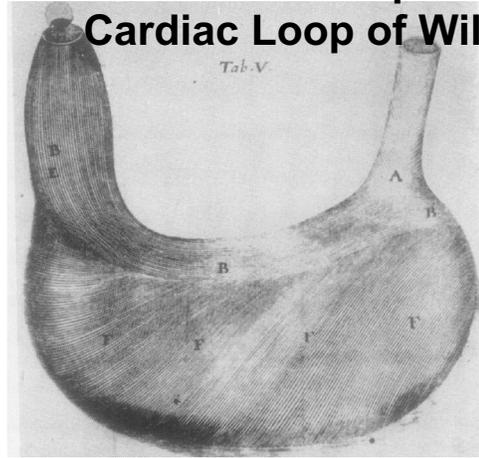
How can the EGJ HPZ be Horizontal Esophagus Enters Stomach at a Right Angle



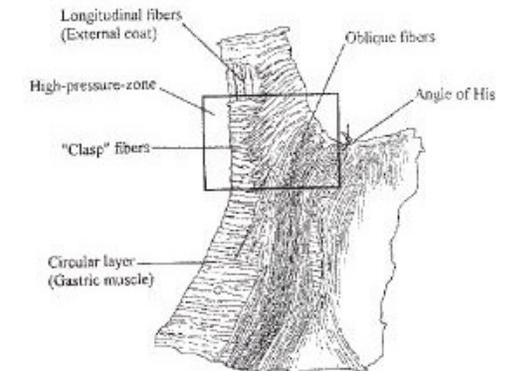
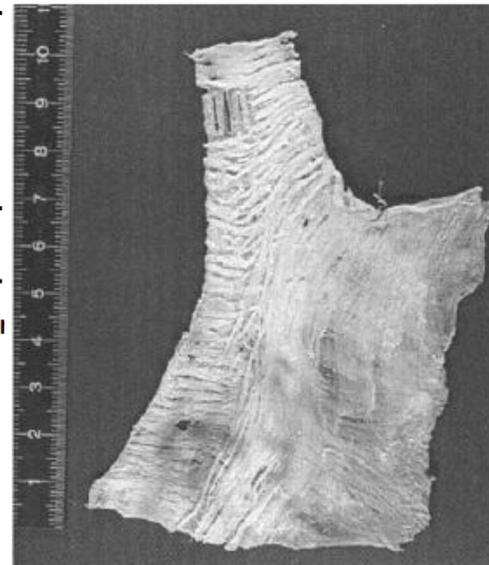
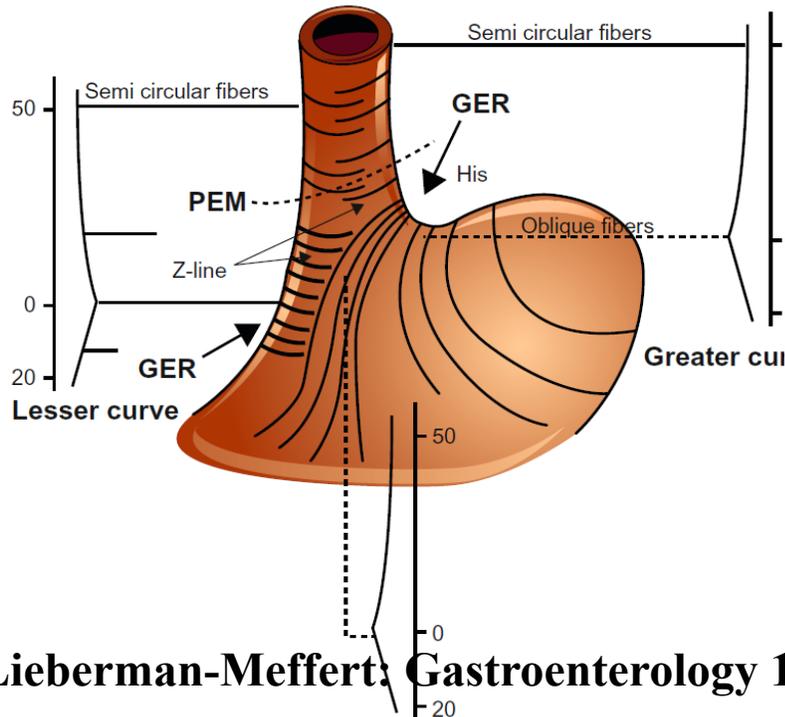
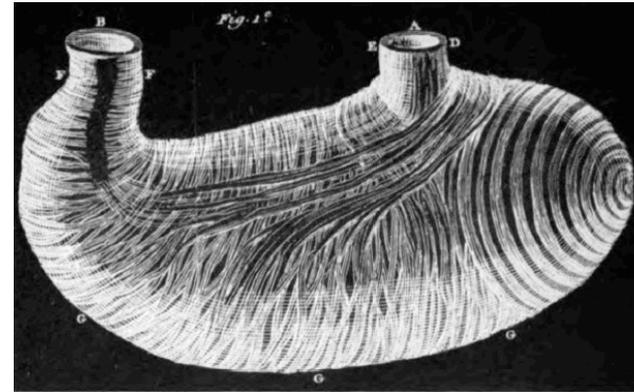
Catheter & High-Pressure Zone are at Right Angle to Each Other

Myoarchitecture of the Lower Esophageal Sphincter

Lendrum's Loop-1674
Cardiac Loop of Willis



Collar of Helvitus 1719



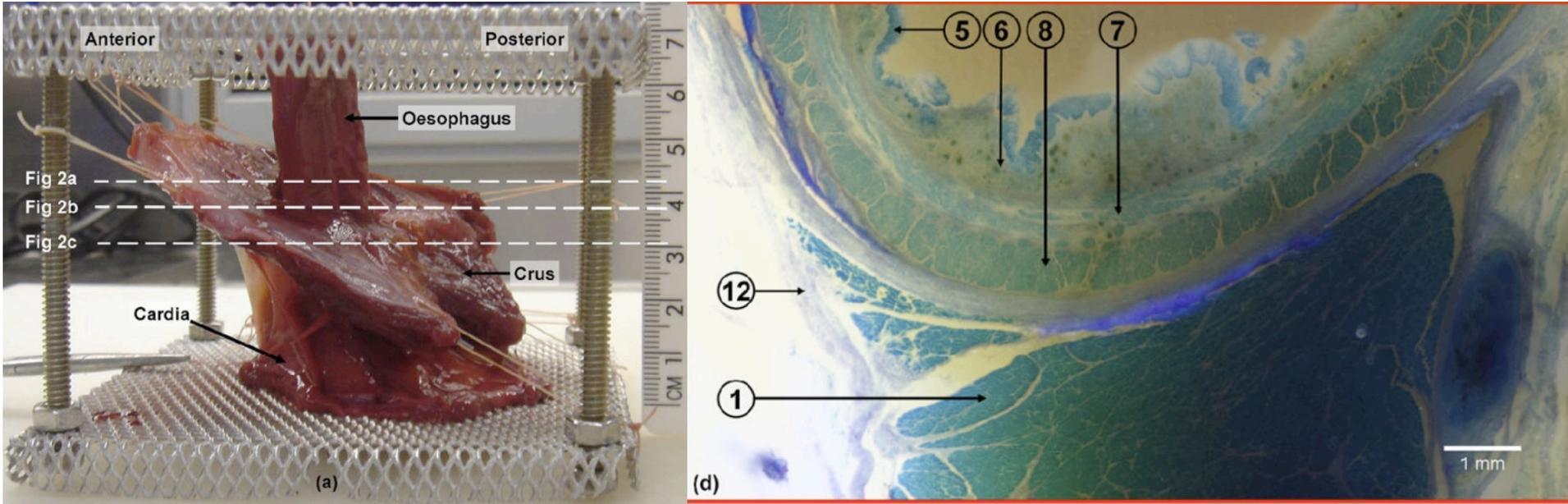
Lieberman-Meffert: Gastroenterology 1979; 76:31-38

O. Korn, A. Csendes

Three-Dimensional High-Resolution Reconstruction of the Human Gastro-Oesophageal Junction

R. YASSI¹, L.K. CHENG¹, S. AL-ALI², G. SANDS¹, D. GERNEKE¹, I. LEGRICE^{1,3}, A.J. PULLAN^{1,4}, and J.A. WINDSOR⁵

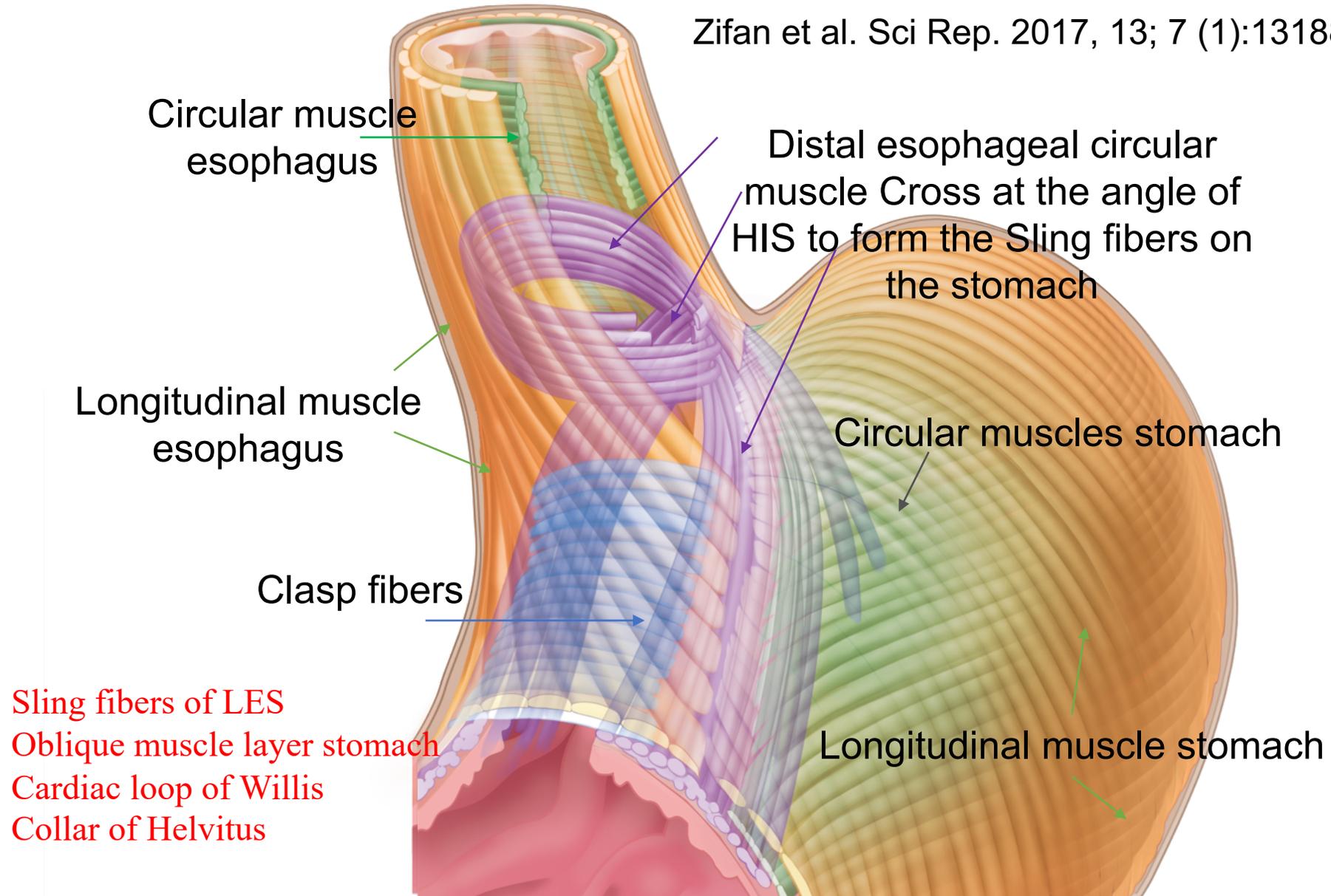
¹Auckland Bioengineering Institute, The University of Auckland, New Zealand ²Department of Anatomy with Radiology, The University of Auckland, New Zealand ³Department of Physiology, The University of Auckland, New Zealand ⁴Department of Engineering Science, The University of Auckland, New Zealand ⁵Department of Surgery, The University of Auckland, New Zealand

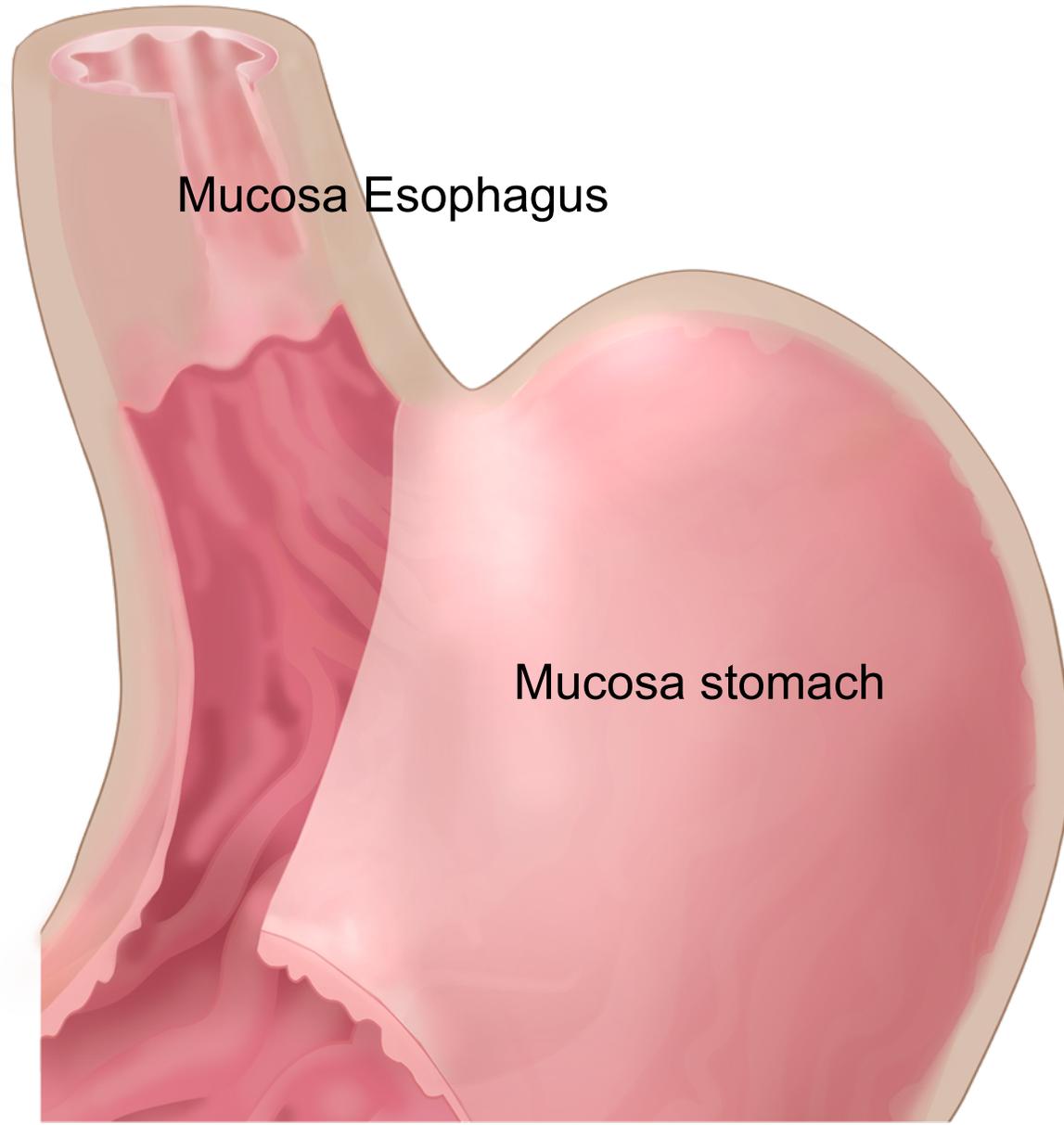


652 Axial Sections – each 25 MB

Myoarchitecture of Lower Esophageal Sphincter

Zifan et al. Sci Rep. 2017, 13; 7 (1):13188

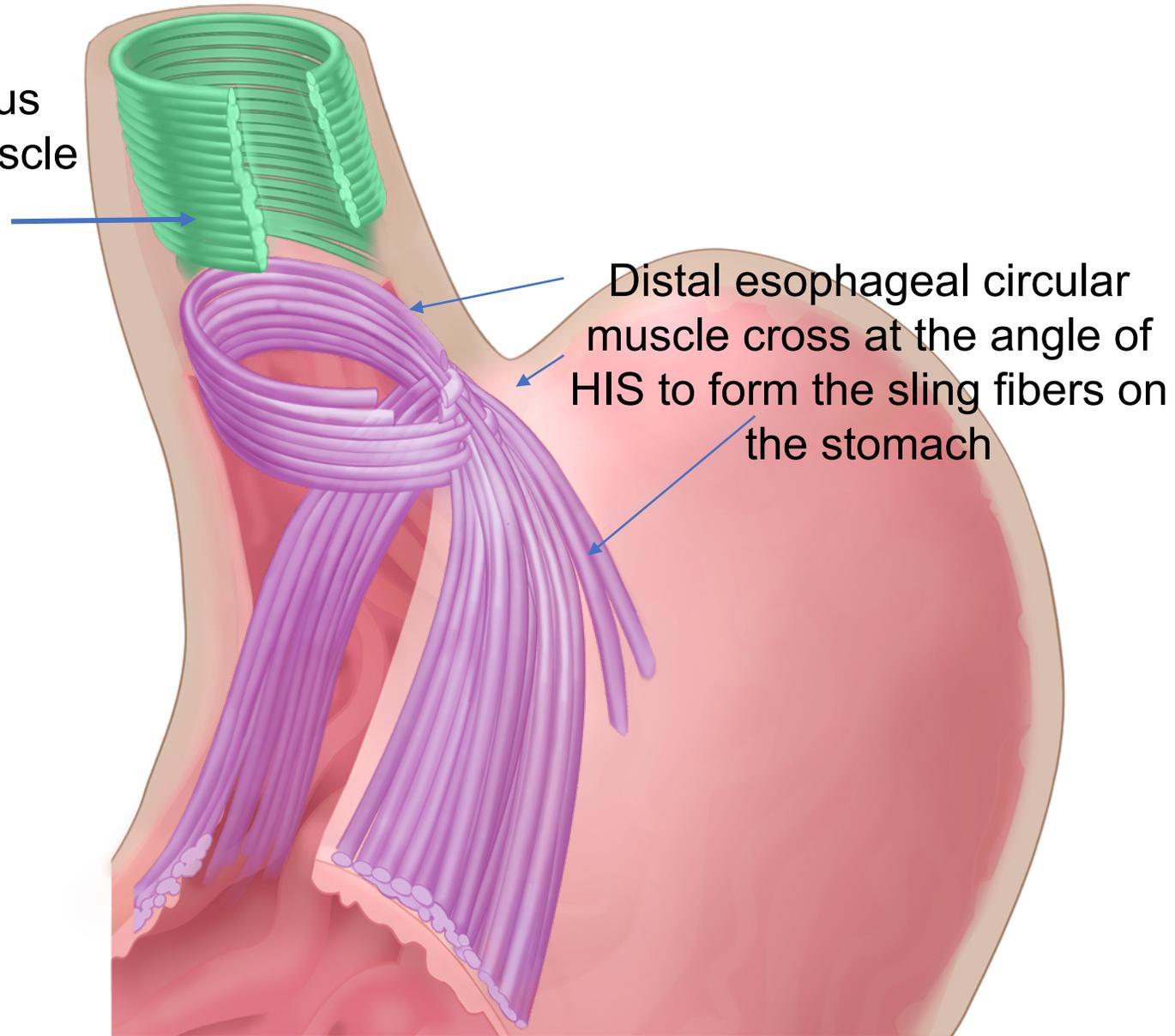




Mucosa Esophagus

Mucosa stomach

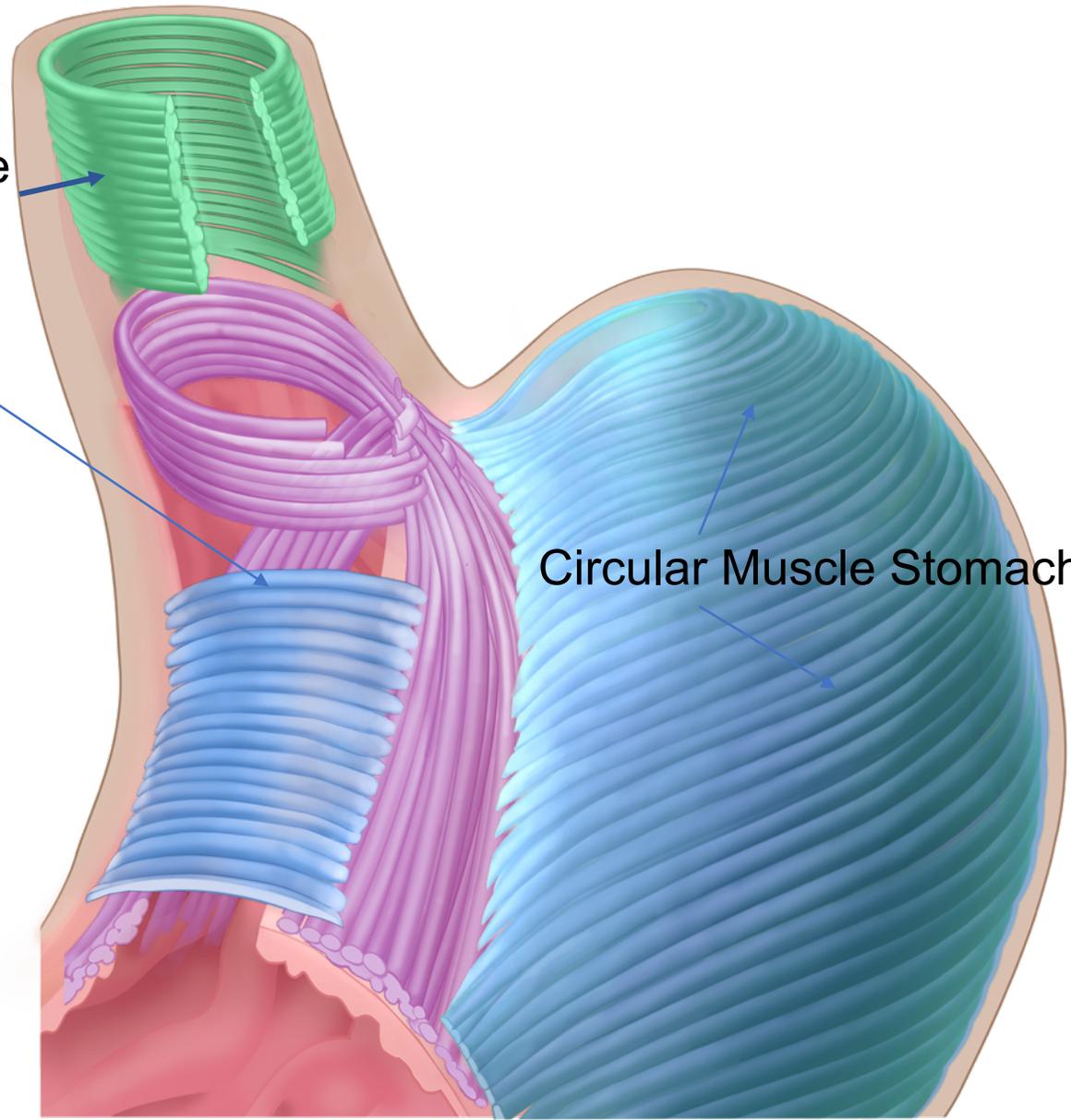
Esophagus
circular muscle



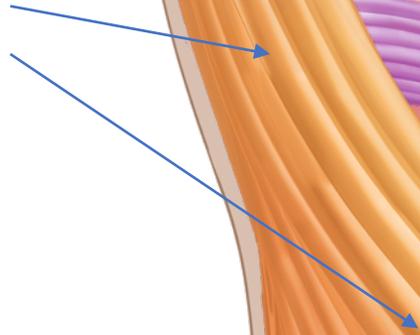
Esophagus
Circular Muscle

Clasp Fibers

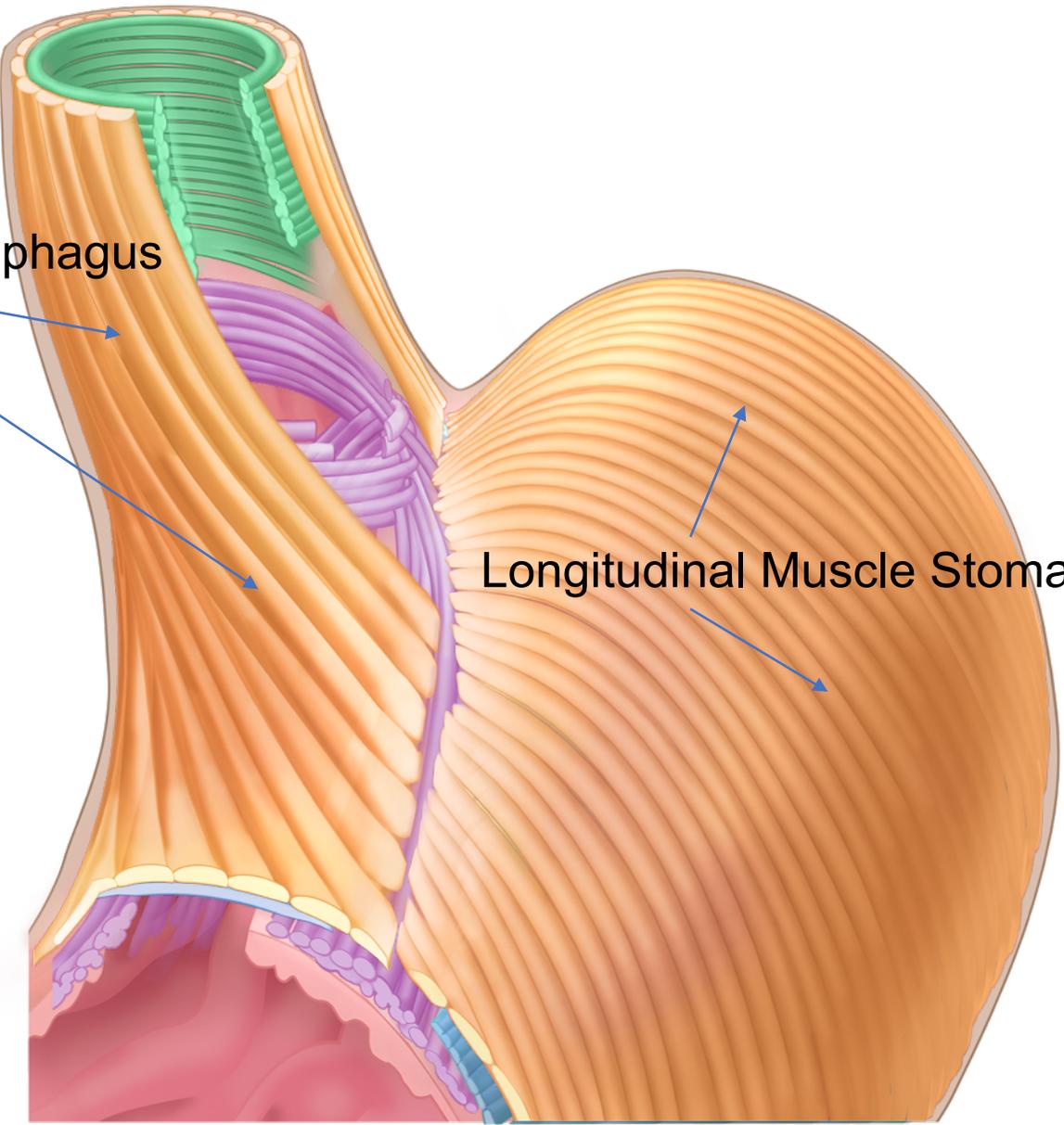
Circular Muscle Stomach

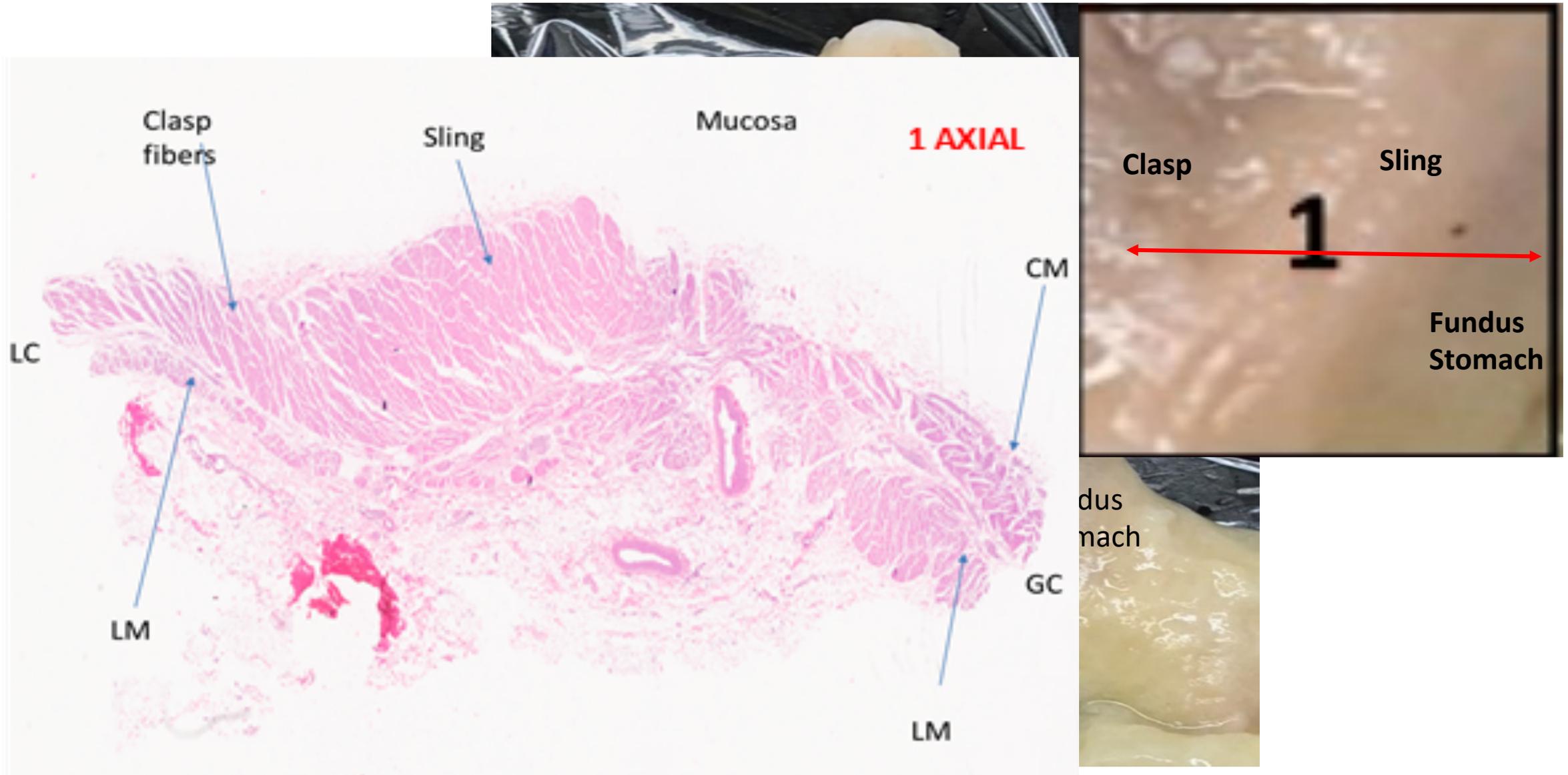


Longitudinal Muscle Esophagus



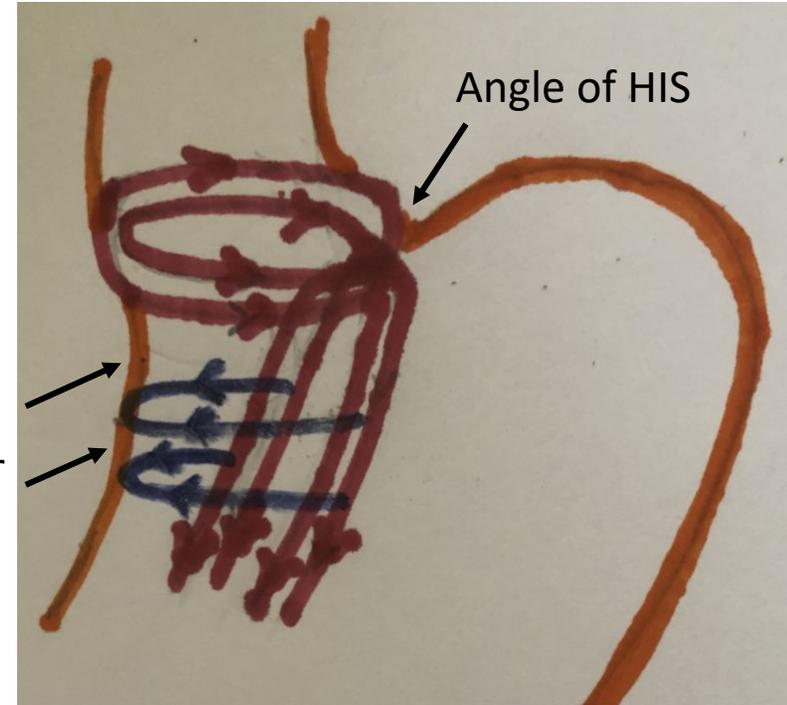
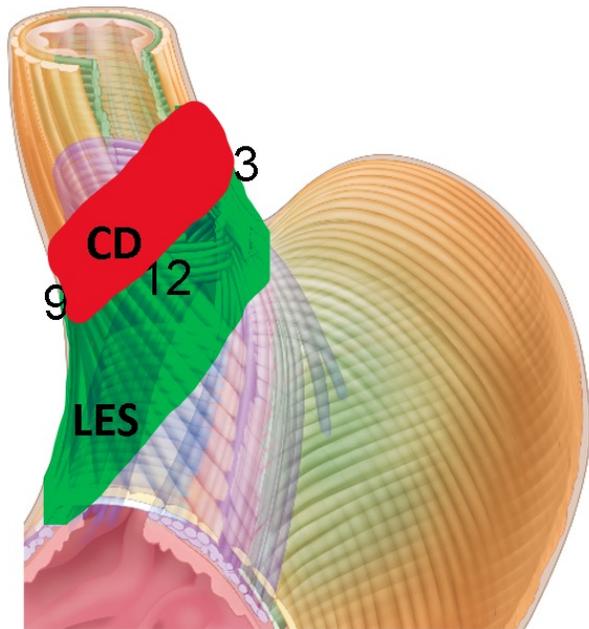
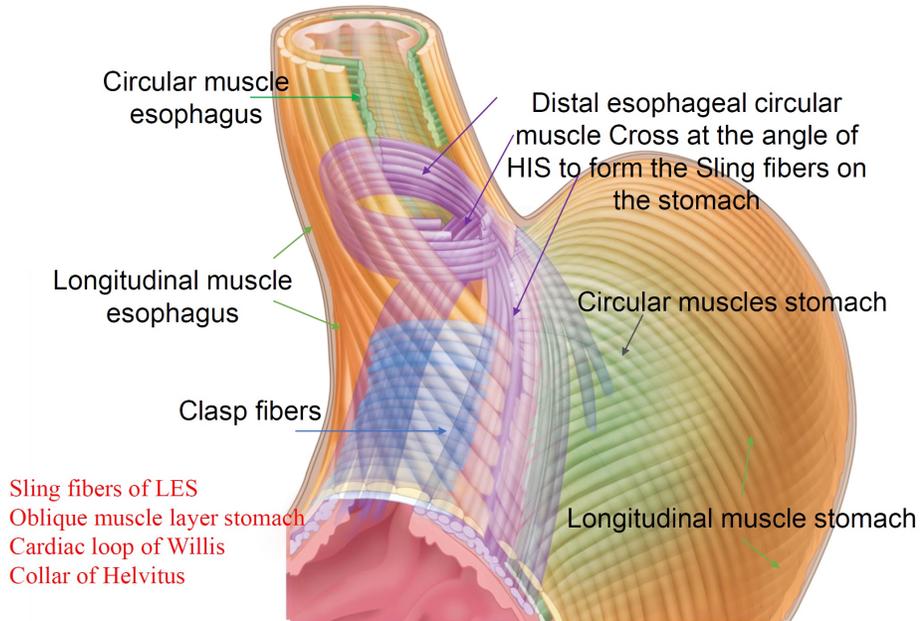
Longitudinal Muscle Stomach





Axial Section across the Sling Fibers of the Stomach

Nice Function Matches Morphological Basis



LES is not a ring or donut like muscle,
It is a purse string

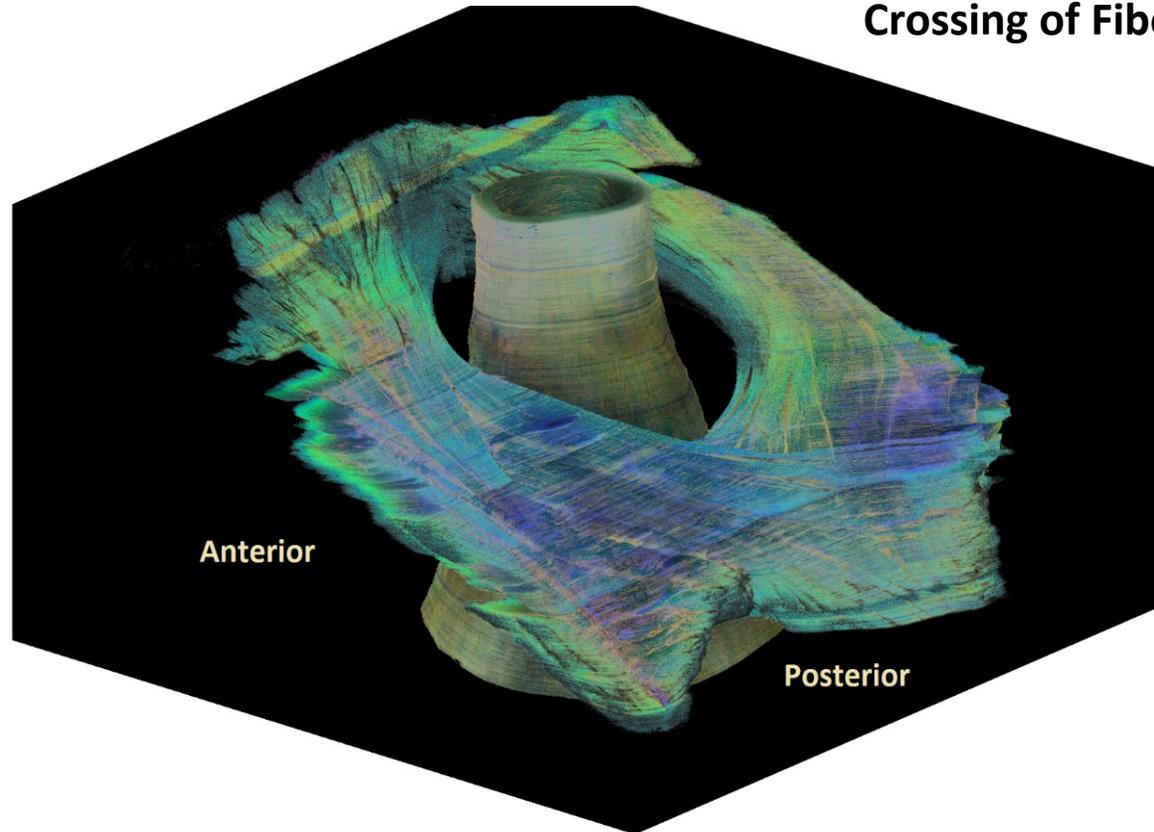
Three-Dimensional Myoarchitecture of the Lower Esophageal Sphincter and Esophageal Hiatus Using Optical Sectioning Microscopy

Ali Zifan¹, Dushyant Kumar¹, Leo K. Cheng² & Ravinder K. Mittal¹

Sci Rep. 2017 Oct
13;7(1):13188

CD is not a ring or donut like muscle

Crural Diaphragm: Double Purse String



Anterior Crossing of Fibers

Right Crus Crossing of Fibers

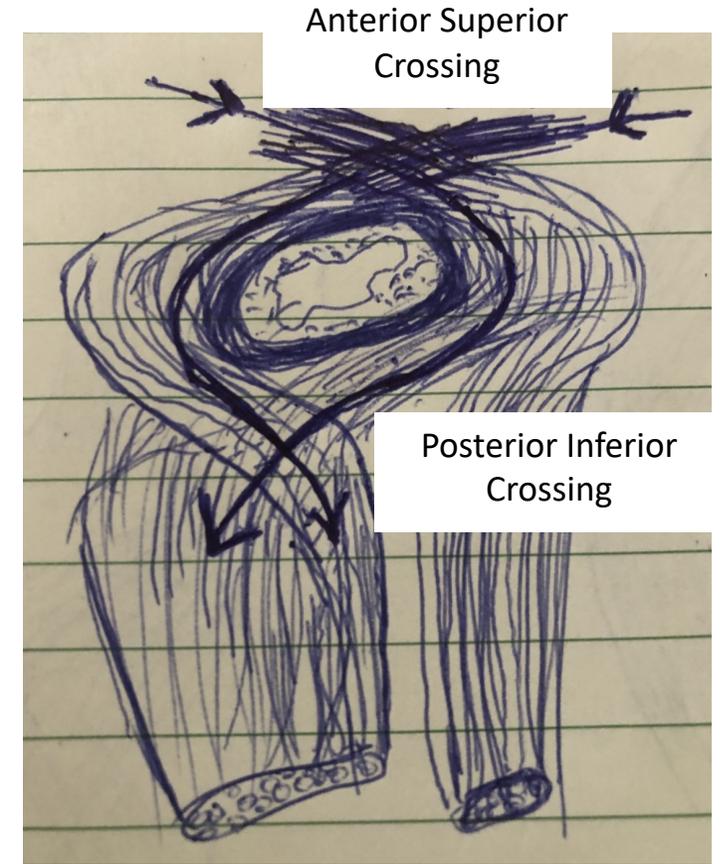


Illustration by Ravinder Mittal



Lower Esophageal Sphincter - LES

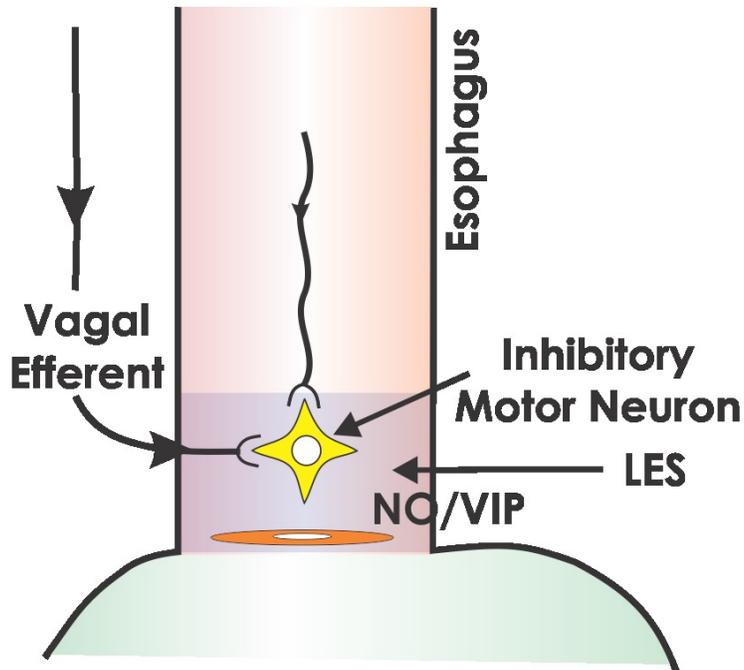
Myogenic Tone – Unique property of LES

Modulatory influence by excitatory (cholinergic) and inhibitory (NO and VIP nerves)

LES is goldmine of receptors but their physiological role unknown

Vagus nerve stimulation causes LES relaxation through NO nerves

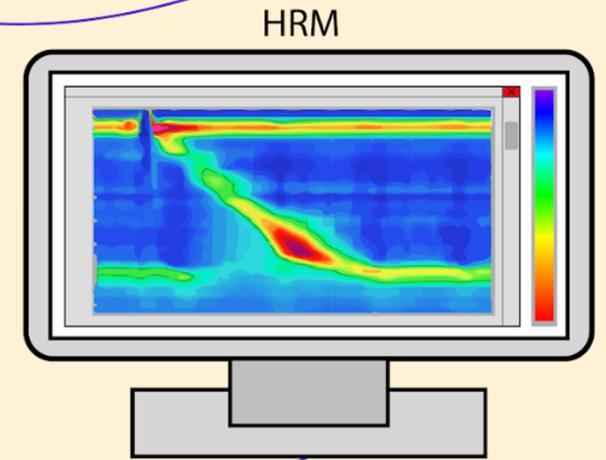
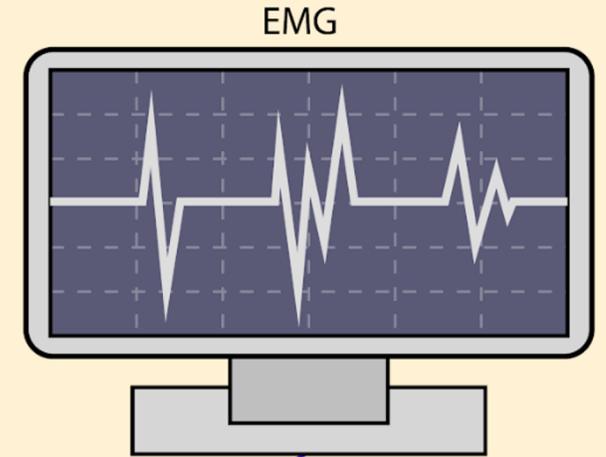
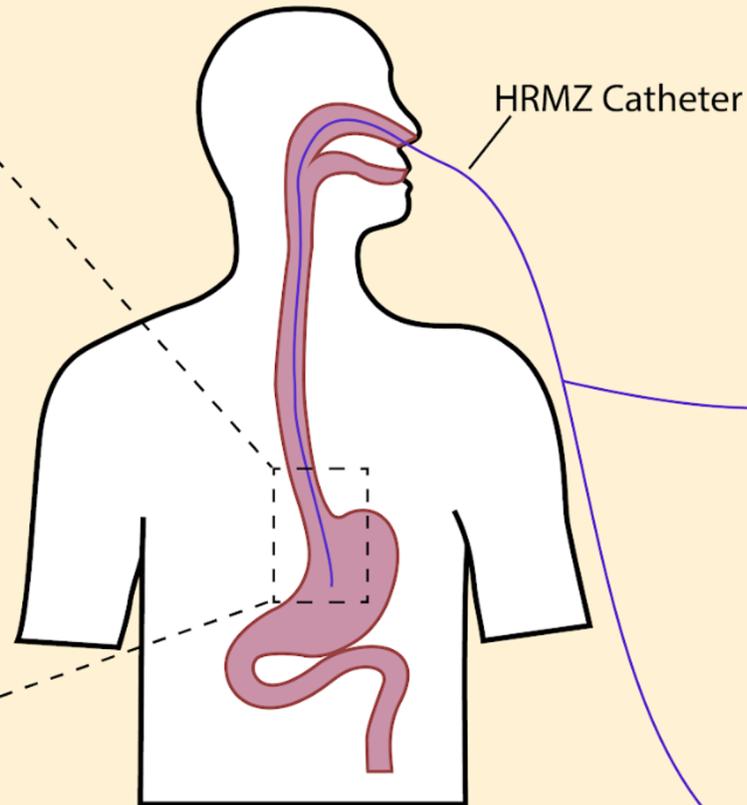
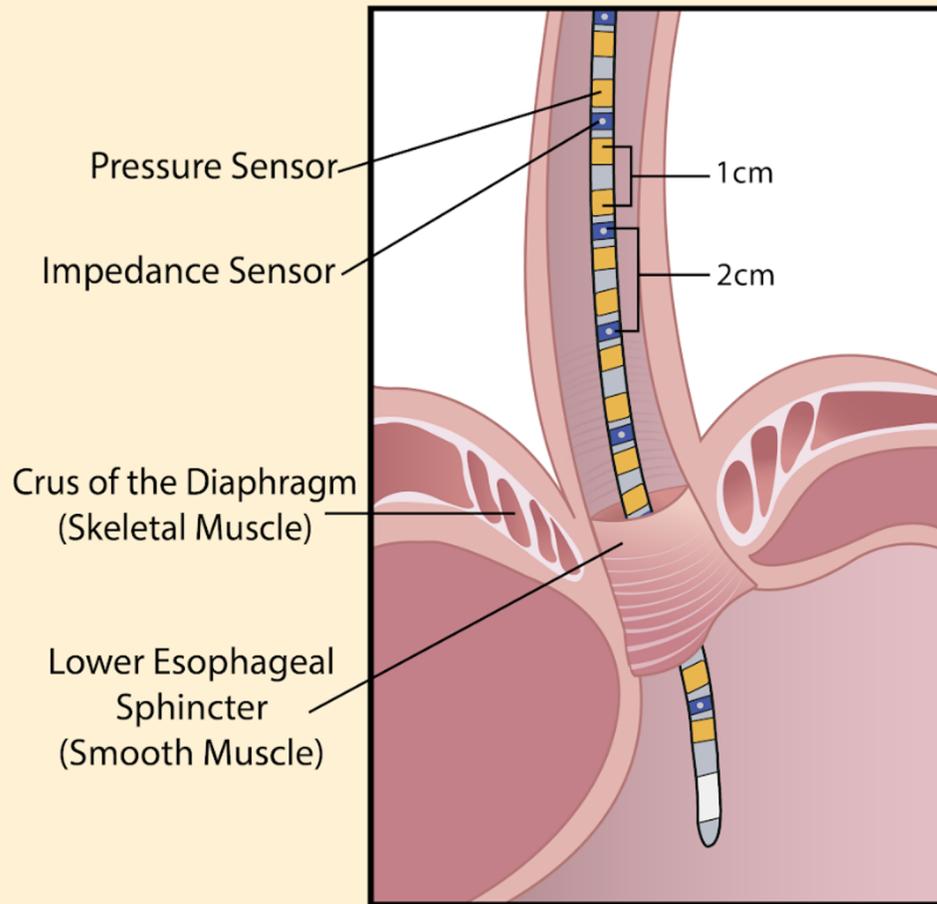
Sympathetic nerve stimulation causes LES contraction



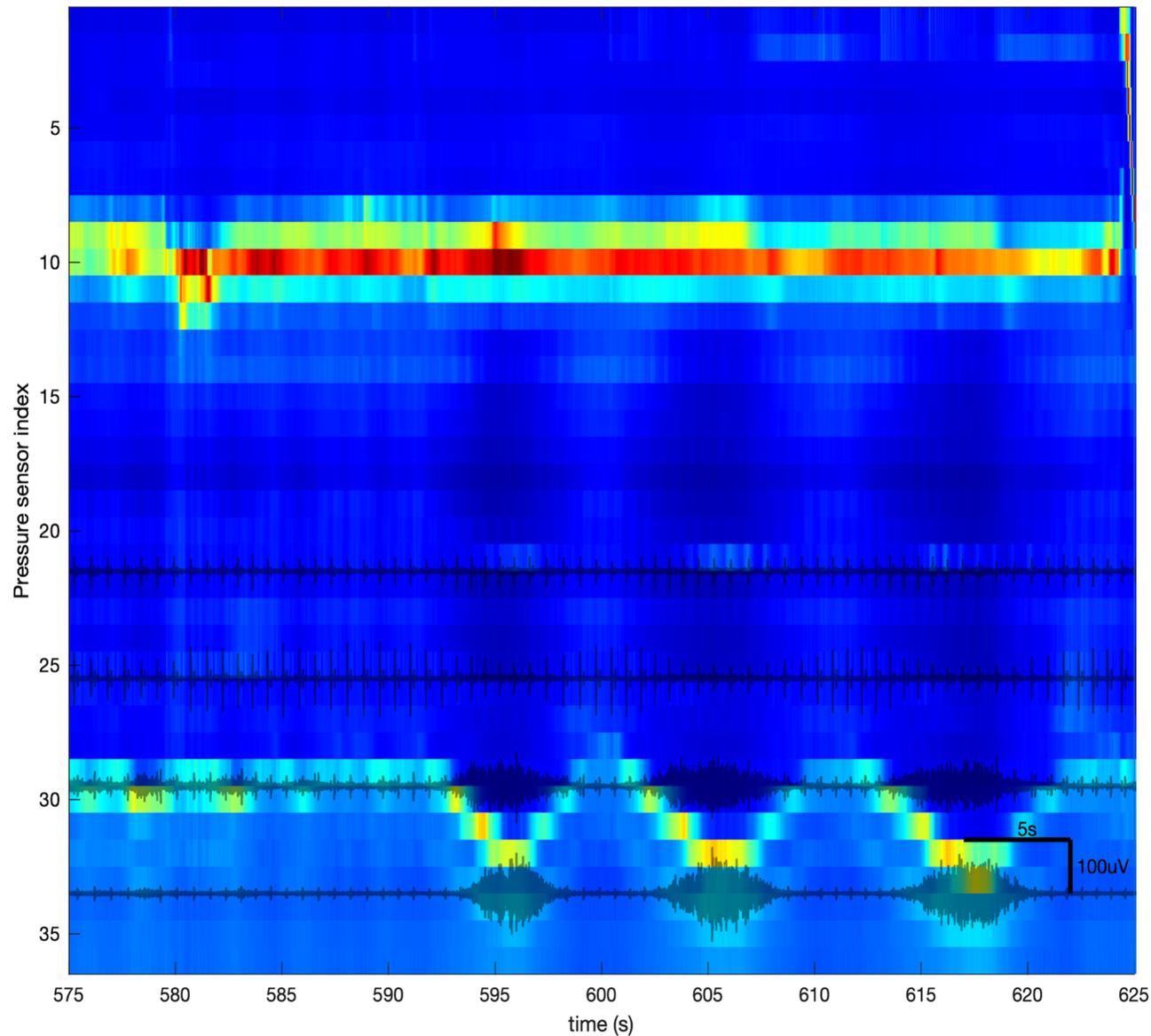
Electrical and Mechanical Activity in the Human Lower Esophageal Sphincter during Diaphragmatic Contraction

Journal of Clinical Investigation 1988

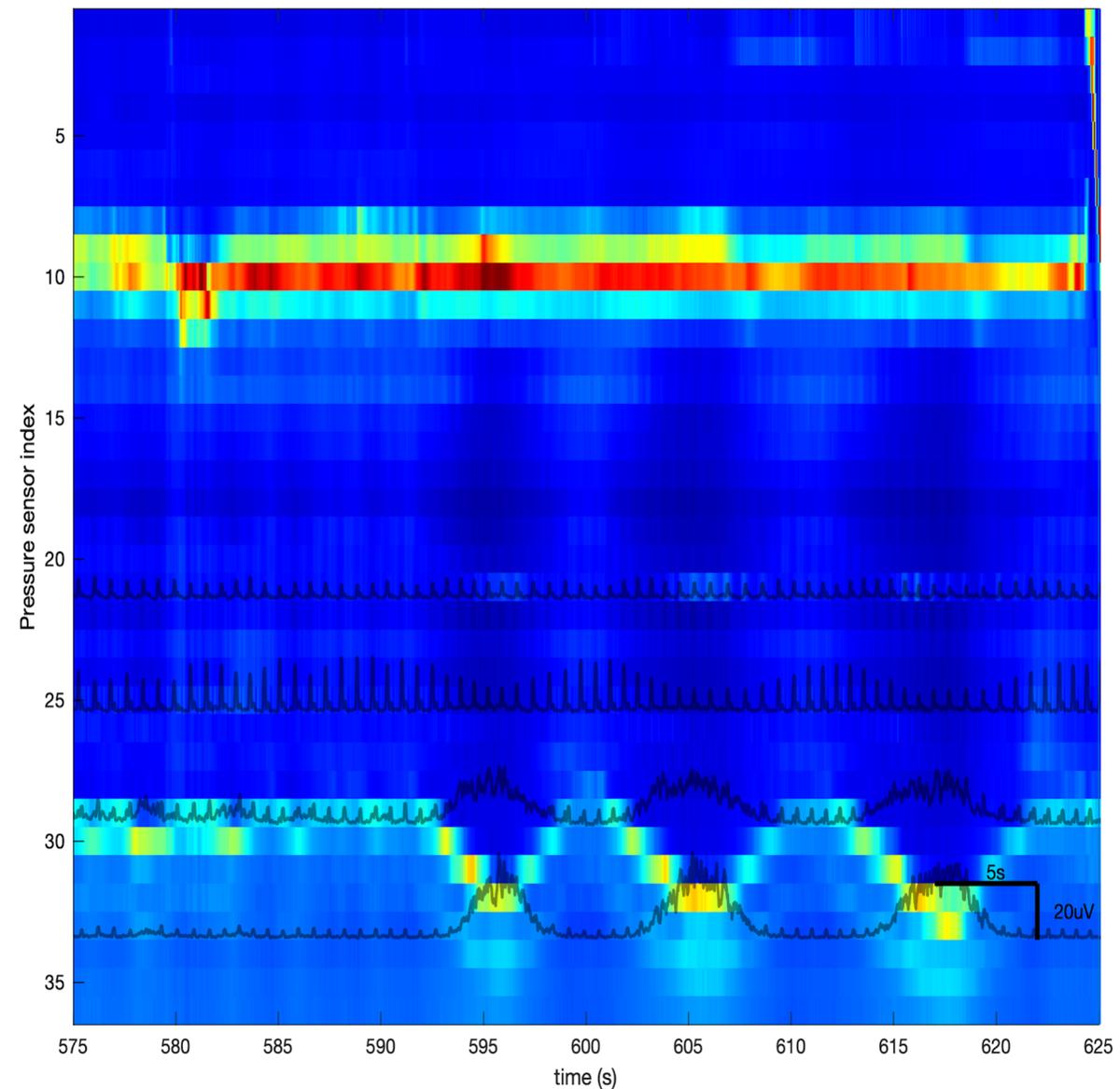
2021



Skeletal Muscle Filter 2: 100-200Hz



Skeletal 100-200Hz Filter and RMS 100msec



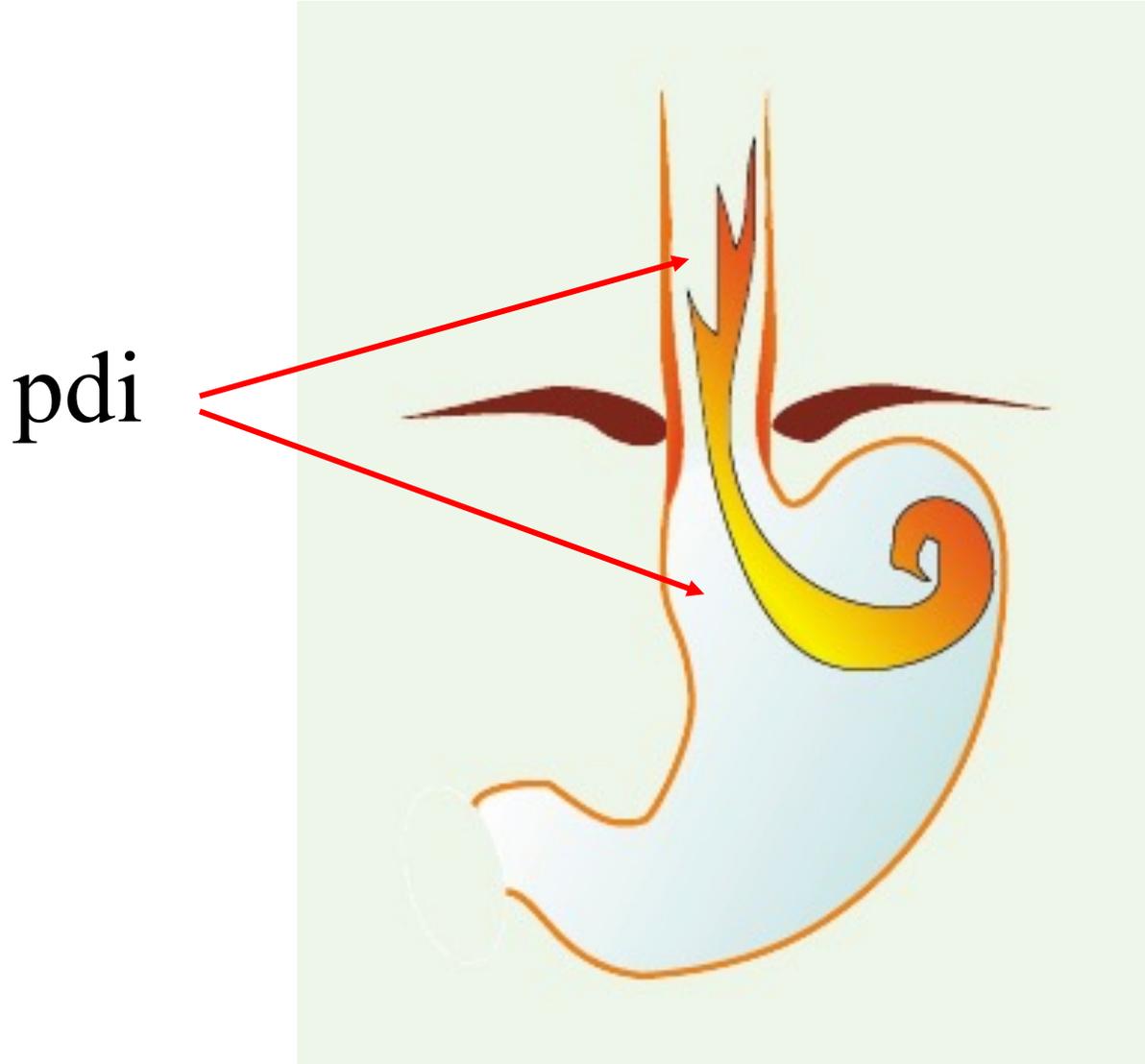
Crural Diaphragm/Hiatal Function at EGJ

Increase in EGJ pressure

With inspiration, the amplitude of increase is related to the depth of inspiration/force of diaphragmatic contraction

With abdominal compression, straight leg raise, coughing, Valsalva and all those maneuvers that increase abdominal pressure, and pressure gradients between the esophagus and stomach

Trans diaphragmatic Pressure (Gastric - Esophageal Pressure - pdi) Driving Force of GER & EGJ the Barrier

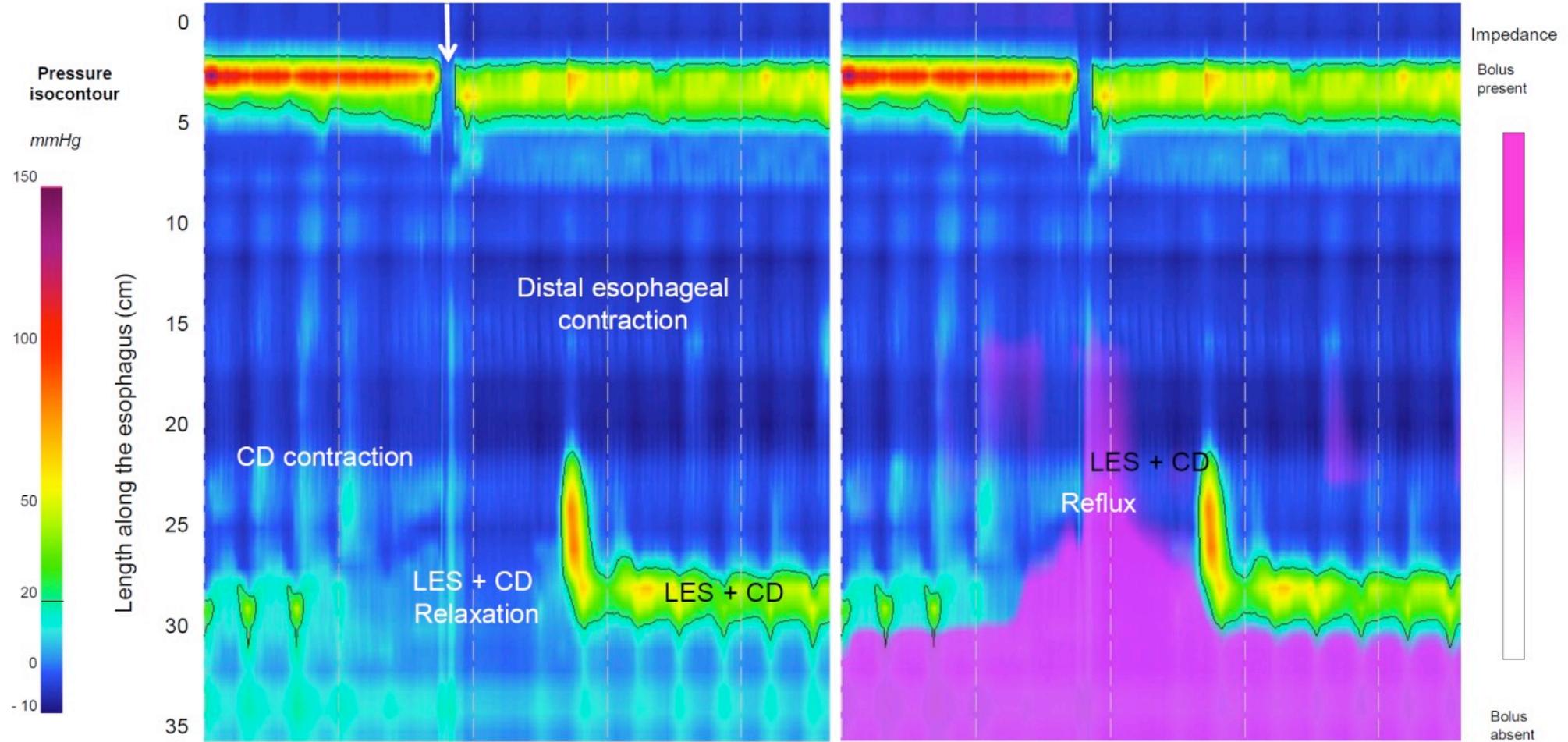


Dynamic EGJ Barrier Function

End expiratory pressure under resting condition is due to LES

Increase with inspiration, abdominal compression, cough, Valsalva and other maneuvers is due to CD

Transient Lower Esophageal Sphincter Relaxation



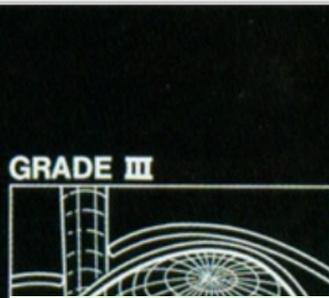
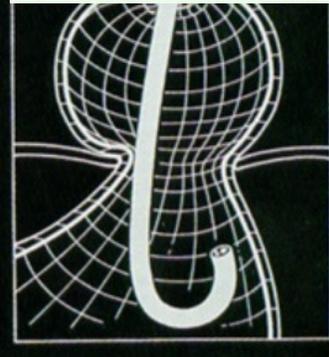
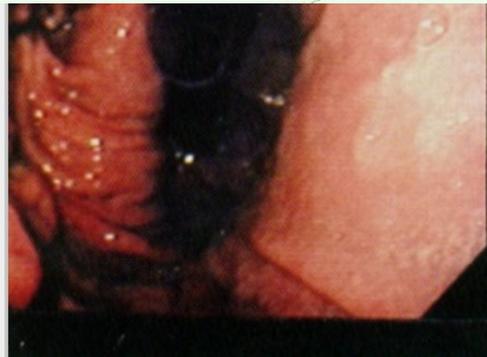
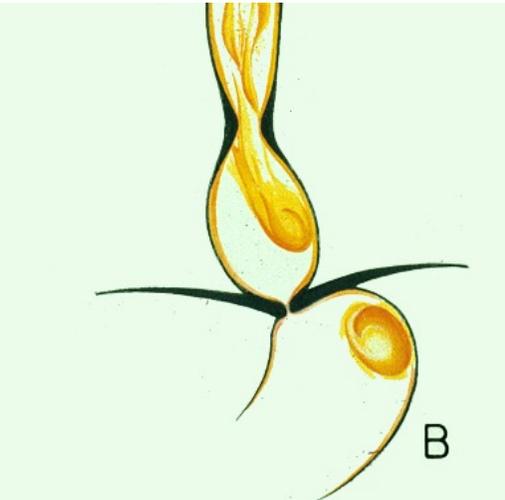
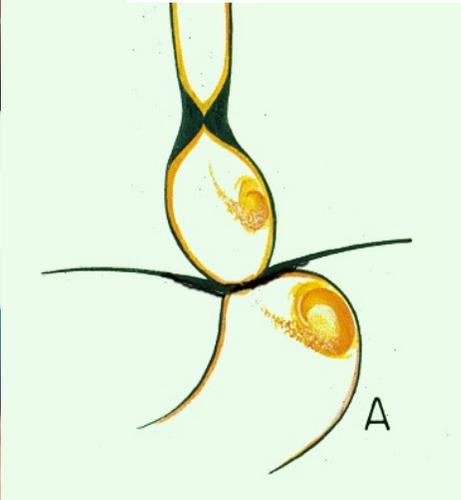


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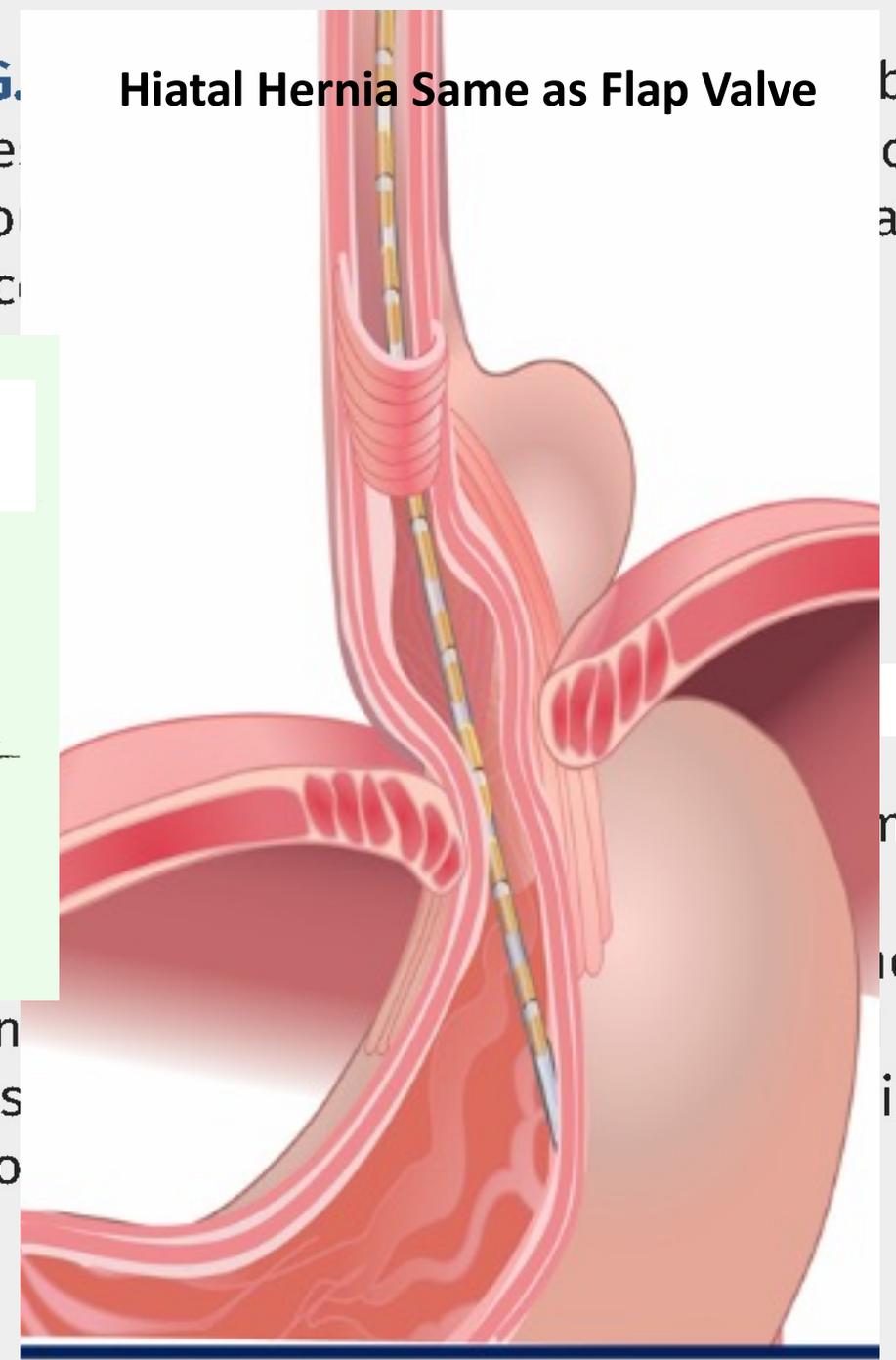
Hiatal Hernia Same as Flap Valve

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Pressure Gradient between Esophagus, Hiatal Hernia & Stomach
LES & Crural Diaphragm Pressure – Barrier of Reflux

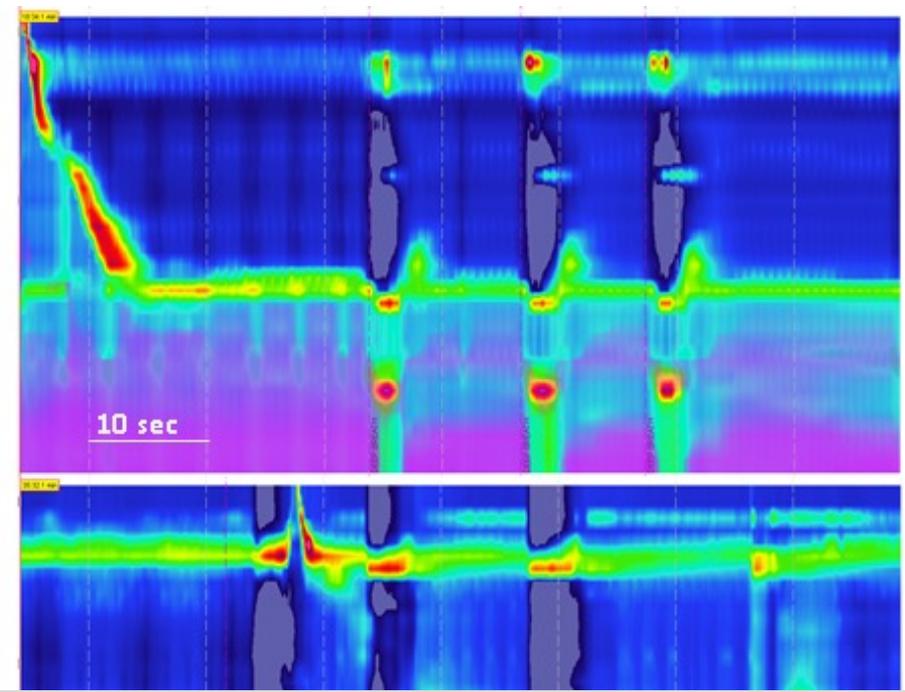
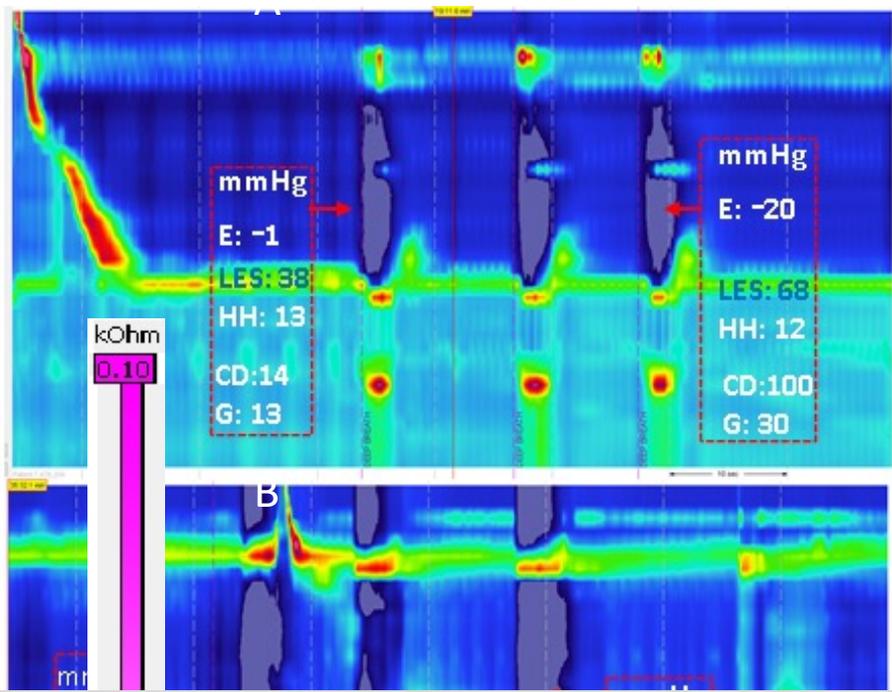
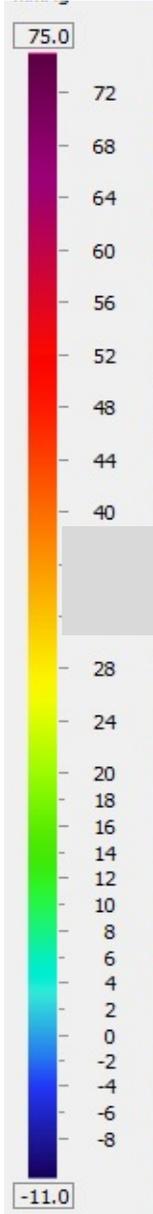


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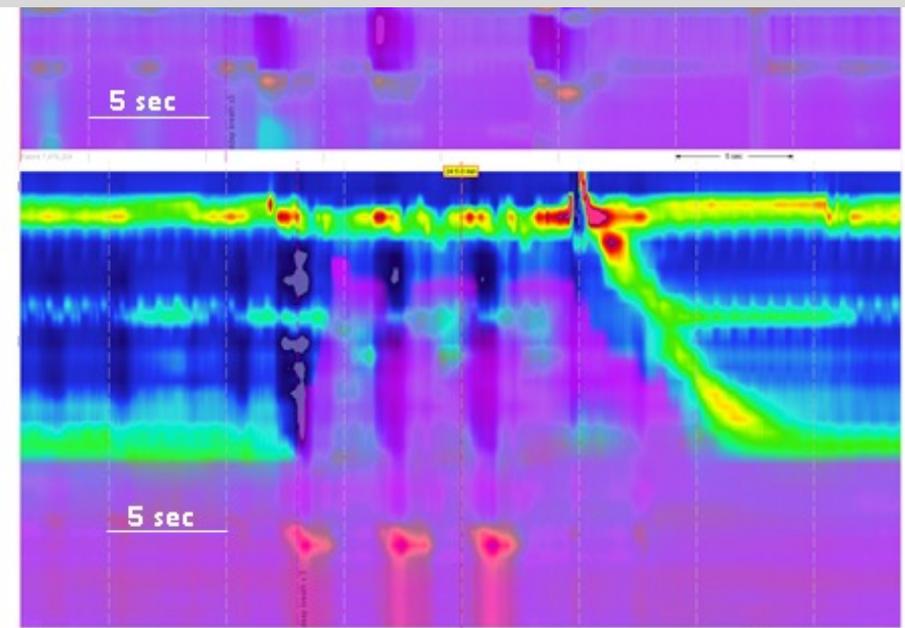
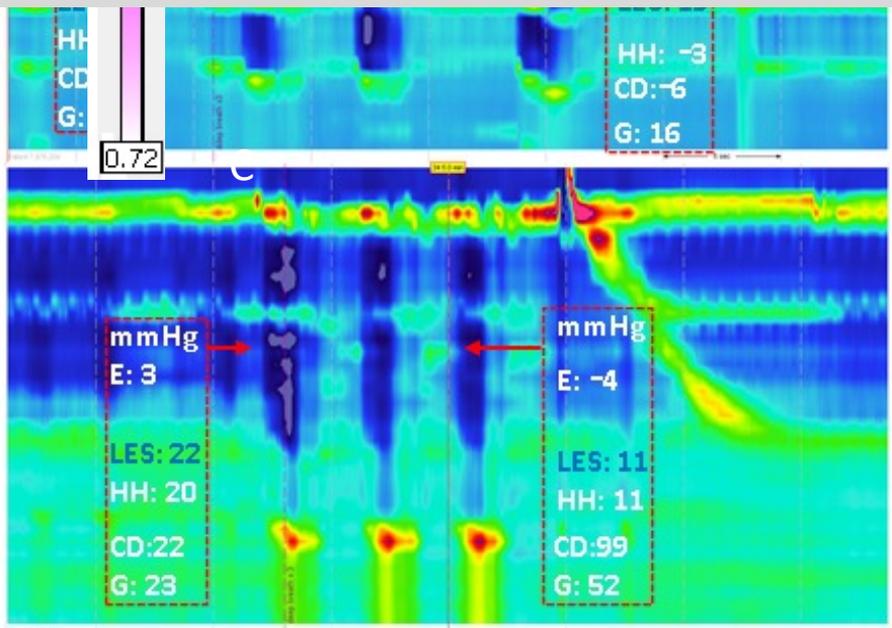


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Breathing Causes Reflux in Hiatal Hernia if LES pressure is Low



Antireflux Barrier – 2021

Better Measurement Techniques Have Allowed to Delineate

- **Structure & function of smooth muscle lower esophageal sphincter**
- **Structure and function of crural diaphragm (Hiatus)**
- **Flap valve/same as Hiatus Hernia – Separation between the LES and Hiatus**

Function Matches with Anatomy

Challenges in Antireflux Barrier Function Understanding – 2021

- **Not all Heartburn is GERD or the Spectrum of GERD**
- **Cause of low LES pressure in GERD**
- **Cause of Hiatal Dysfunction in GERD**
- **Cause of Hiatus Hernia**