

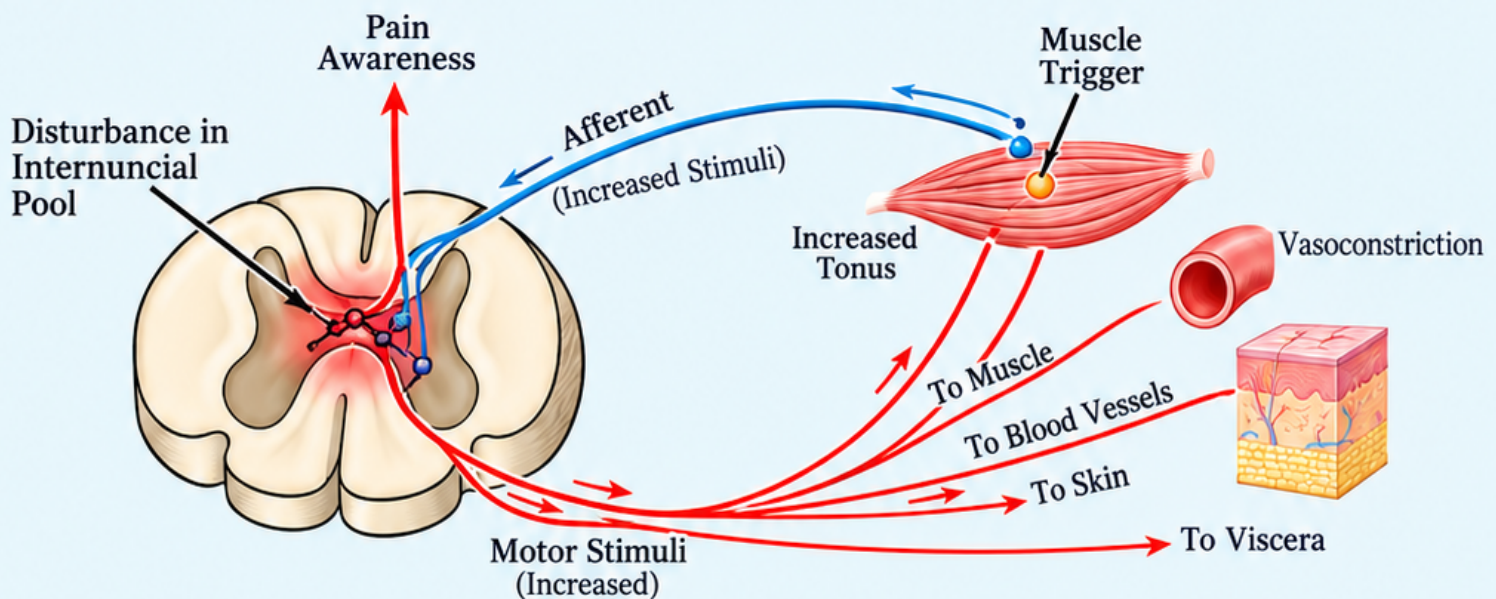
-The Reflex Arc-

The Physiopathological Reflex Arc

When sensory nerve endings in the soft tissues are damaged, the threshold for stimuli is lowered and the result is increased sensory input into the posterior root of the cord and augmented excitement in the internuncial pool. This means the quiet physiological reflex circuit is replaced by an intensified pathological circuit.

In light of Arndt's law, the normally weak to moderate stimuli which favors the circuit is replaced by strong stimuli which retards it.

THE PHYSIOPATHOLOGICAL REFLEX ARC



The circuit is also altered because the impulses are now constant. This means that normal muscle tone is replaced by hypercontracture, and spasm. Vasoconstriction and localized pain also result. Ischemia, hypoxia and metabolic irritants are chief incitants of pain in the area. All of this results from increased sensory stimuli and as this neural activity continues pathological changes are inevitable. This is the forming of a trigger point.

The Spread to Other Segments

The sustained, high intensity sensory input causes a spill-over effect in the internuncial pool. This results in the ascending or descending of the impulses into other segments. The motor pathways that are usually affected are those that have been facilitated by previous conditioning.