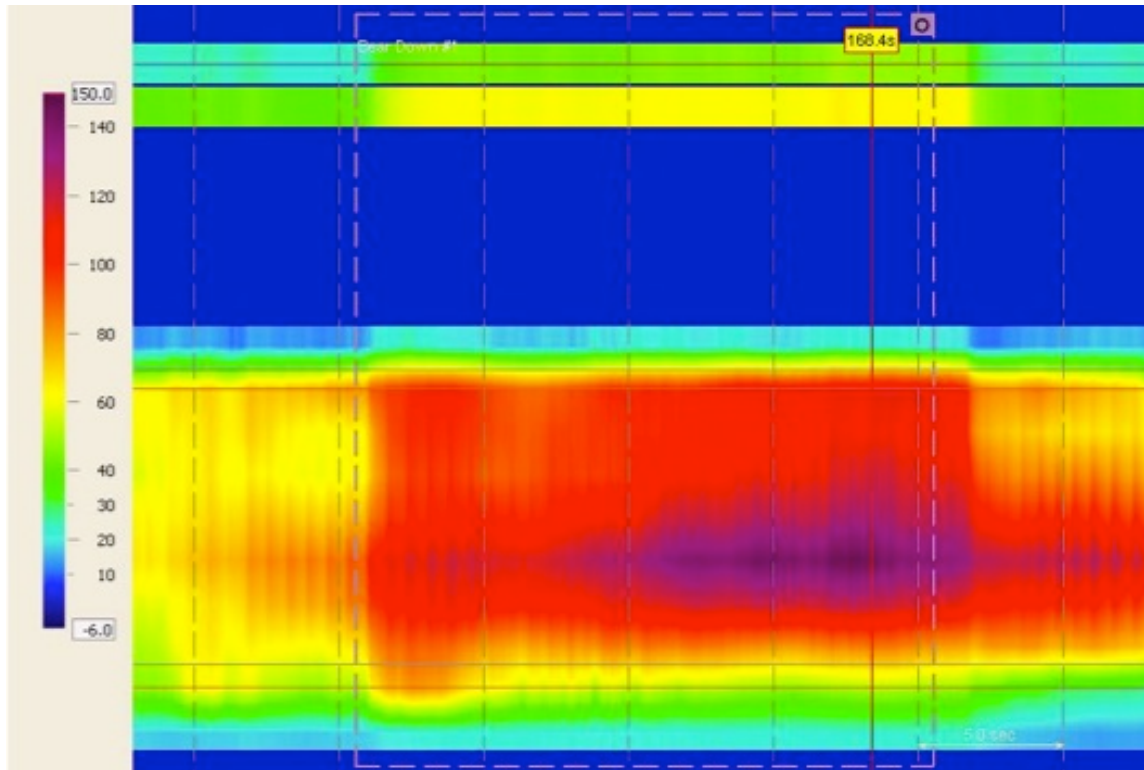


### Question 9 – September 26

A 52 year old woman presents to the office for evaluation of constipation. The symptoms started following surgery for an ovarian cyst removal. She reports straining and inability to expel stool. OTC laxatives have been ineffective. Colonoscopy was performed which was normal. Anorectal manometry (ARM) was performed and the following pattern was noted during “bear down” maneuver:



What diagnosis does the ARM pattern suggest?

- A. Hirshsprungs disease
- B. Slow transit constipation
- C. Rectocele
- D. Dyssynergy

**Answer: D**

The manometry is showing paradoxical contraction of the anal sphincter during defecation maneuver. The cool colors (blue/green/yellow) denote lower pressures than the warm colors (red/orange). Dyssynergic defecation is characterized by either paradoxical or incomplete relaxation of the anal sphincter during bear down attempts.

**Reference:**

Rao SS. Advances in the mechanisms and assessment of fecal incontinence and Dyssynergic defecation. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2010; 8(11):910-9.