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MC4403, 2990 Broadway, New York, NY 10027. *Vanishing Cycles and Wild Monodromy.*

Let  $K$  be a complete discrete valuation field of mixed characteristic  $(0, p)$  with algebraically closed residue field, and let  $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  be a three-point  $G$ -cover defined over  $K$ , where  $G$  has a cyclic  $p$ -Sylow subgroup  $P$ . We examine the stable model of  $f$ , in particular, the minimal extension  $K^{st}/K$  such that the stable model is defined over  $K^{st}$ . Our main result is that, if  $g(Y) \geq 2$ , the inertia groups of  $f$  are prime to  $p$ , and  $|P| = p^n$ , then the  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $\text{Gal}(K^{st}/K)$  has exponent dividing  $p^{n-1}$ . This extends work of Raynaud in the case that  $|P| = p$ . (Received September 06, 2009)