

Spinal cord stimulation therapy for chronic pain sufferers who cannot get relief from other treatments

WHAT IS SPINAL CORD STIMULATION THERAPY?

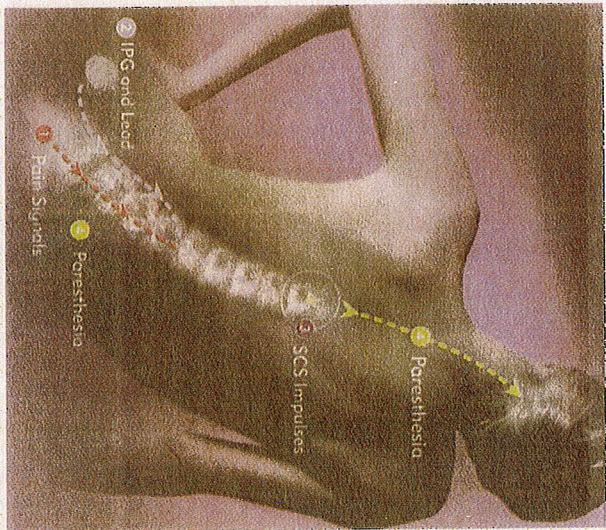
Spinal Cord Stimulation (SCS) Therapy is an established treatment option for adults who continue to experience chronic pain following an injury or illness to the nerves, despite appropriate conventional medical management.

SCS Therapy consists of a small implantable device or stimulator, similar in size to a stopwatch, and two implantable wires that deliver electrical pulses to nerves in the spinal cord to treat pain.

The device is usually implanted in the abdomen or upper buttocks, and the wires are inserted under the skin and then connected to the stimulator. The surgical procedure is simple, takes around an hour and is carried out under local anaesthetic either by an anaesthetist or surgeon.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

The treatment aim is to replace the feeling of pain with a smooth tingling sensation called paresthesia. While it does not cure the pain, it can provide effective relief for pain sufferers in addition to medications or other treatments. Most patients report that their pain is significantly reduced com-



An Implanted Precision Plus Spinal Cord Stimulator

pared to before and patient satisfaction with treatment is reported to be more than 70 per cent. For some patients, it may be possible to return to work after years of suffering, as well as offer the possibility to reduce the dosage or number of pain medications.

The treatment has further advantages in that it is known to be safe, it does not interact with other treatments or give concern regarding potential drug overdose. Furthermore, the pain relief is maintained over time, is well tolerated and offers the patient the chance to control the stimulation to manage their pain via a remote control.

Penny Reeves, a pain patient, explains: "In March 2009 I had a spinal cord stimulator implanted after three years of terrible pain caused by nerve damage. I was 39 at the time, and as a mum of two girls I wanted to start living again, be in control of the pain and not take the drugs I had to take. The procedure has changed my life. I am in control, working

full time, I have lost two-and-a-half stone and have more energy to enjoy my girls' childhood."

SPINAL CORD STIMULATION IN THE UK

Clinical studies have shown that SCS Therapy, in addition to conventional management, is cost-effective. It was approved by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in October 2008.

Dr Simon Thomson, consultant anaesthetist and leading pain specialist at Basildon University Hospital, Essex, talks about SCS Therapy for chronic neuropathic pain: "Each year in the UK, around 1,000 patients receive spinal cord stimulation therapy thanks to the National Health Service (NHS). Despite this number, however, it is estimated that this represents only 3 per cent of patients who could potentially benefit from it."

TODAY'S DEVICE TECHNOLOGY

Through constant technological innovation, today's spinal cord stimulators afford additional benefits and options to both physicians and patients. One such device, the Precision Plus™, is rechargeable, allowing patients to recharge their stim-

ulator as often as required while continuing normal daily activities.

The Precision Plus's rechargeable technology is meant to avoid the need for repeat surgeries, due to battery depletion, that are associated with conventional battery technology. The Precision Plus system can last up to 25 years depending on the patient's settings. Such technology allows the physician to treat the patient's pain optimally by maximising stimulation, particularly for patients who have multiple sites of pain.

Furthermore, rechargeability can signify less potential surgical procedure and equipment complications, and can create significant cost savings over time for the NHS.

Spinal cord stimulation therapy is a safe and highly effective treatment option for those patients in need who have suffered years of chronic pain.

The law restricts these devices to sale by or on the order of a physician. Indications, contraindications, warnings and instructions for use can be found in the product labeling supplied with each device.

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Delivering what's next.™

Our philosophy about medical devices is simple: the device should fit the patient, not force the patient to fit the device. Case in point: Precision Plus™ Spinal Cord Stimulator System. When the patient gets lasting pain relief, that makes their lives – and yours – smoother