

What is Spinal Cord Stimulation?

A spinal cord stimulator (SCS) is a treatment for chronic, intractable pain, which has not been helped, or is not helped enough by other treatments. A pain specialist can determine if your pain may be helped by a SCS. A SCS is an implanted device, similar in size to a heart pacemaker. The device generates mild electrical impulses and has leads that are placed in the epidural space behind the spinal cord. The signals interrupt pain from the spine to the brain. The pain sensation is replaced by a more pleasant sensation and patients experience pain relief.

How do I know if SCS is right for me?

If you have chronic, intractable pain, a board-certified pain specialist can evaluate you to see if SCS may be right for you. There is a process to determining if a patient is a good candidate for the therapy. Our office can also help determine insurance coverage. Patients that are found to be good candidates for SCS will be offered a Spinal Cord Stimulator Trial. For the trial, which lasts 3-7 days, patients are able to try out the technology to see if their pain is relieved by the device. At the beginning of the trial, leads are placed in the epidural space during a minor office procedure. The SCS battery/programming device is worn on the outside of the body, and can be adjusted and during the trial period. Patients have lots of support from our staff about how to use the device throughout the trial period. After a few days, the patient returns to our office to discuss how much their pain was improved, and the leads are removed. If the patient experienced significant pain relief, they can decide to have a permanent implant procedure. More information about SCS therapy is available at our office, or at www.tamethepain.com

Dr. Randall Franiak, MD is board-certified in both Anesthesia and Pain Medicine. He is a widely respected specialist in pain management and SCS therapy. He has performed hundreds of SCS lead implants for patients with chronic pain.