



PROCEDURE INFORMATION

CERVICAL SPINAL CORD STIMULATOR IMPLANT

FOR NECK AND ARM PAIN

A cervical spinal cord stimulator implant is a procedure for treating neck, shoulder, arm, hand, and headache pain after a successful cervical spinal cord stimulator trial. This information sheet will explain the treatment. Your doctor can explain if this procedure is appropriate for you.

WHAT IS A CERVICAL SPINAL CORD STIMULATOR IMPLANT?

In a cervical spinal cord stimulator implant, electrodes are placed into the epidural space through a needle and connected to an internally placed battery. The battery is programmed to deliver specific electrical impulses, tailored to the patient's pain pattern.

WHAT IS THE EPIDURAL SPACE?

The dura is a protective covering of the spinal cord and its nerves. The space surrounding the dura is called the epidural space. The SCS leads are placed in the epidural space.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A CERVICAL SPINAL CORD STIMULATOR IMPLANT?

The implant will start with an IV (medicine given intravenously) to help you relax. A local anesthetic will be used to numb your skin.

The doctor will then insert two needles into the epidural space. Fluoroscopy, a type of x-ray, may be used to ensure the safe and proper position of the needle.

Once the physician is sure the needles are correctly placed, electrodes will then be placed through the needles into the epidural space and steered into the correct location.

The electrodes are then anchored in place, and the battery is then inserted under the skin and fatty tissue of the lower back.

Two incisions are created to properly secure the leads and the battery.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A CERVICAL SPINAL CORD STIMULATOR IMPLANT?

You will be monitored for 30-60 minutes after the SCS implant. When you are ready to leave, the clinic will give you the discharge instructions.

There are specific movement limitations after the procedure including limited bending, lifting > 10 lbs, and twisting for approximately 6 weeks.

The patient is then seen for an office visit one week later; at which time the bandages are removed.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS?

As with all invasive medical procedures, there are potential risks. Risks are rare, but may include infection, bleeding, allergic reaction, headache, dural puncture, temporary numbness or tingling, weakness, and nerve injury.

You should contact your doctor or go to the emergency room if you experience any of the following symptoms: Severe headaches with nausea or vomiting, fever greater than 101°F, loss of control of bowel or bladder function, severe pain, and/or loss of function or feeling in the arms or legs.

THIS PAMPHLET IS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION ONLY. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS SHOULD ALWAYS BE DIRECTED TO YOUR PROVIDER. YOUR PROVIDER CAN EXPLAIN POSSIBLE RISKS OR SIDE EFFECTS AND OTHER READILY AVAILABLE TREATMENT OPTIONS