

## Spinal Cord Stimulation: A Proven Therapy for Pain

If you have been living with chronic pain, spinal cord stimulation (SCS) may provide new hope. Spinal cord stimulation has been identified to be an effective treatment option for many chronic pain sufferers.

Spinal cord stimulation is a medical therapy for people who suffer from certain types of chronic pain. SCS uses a small implanted device to generate tiny electrical pulses that replace the feeling of pain with a tingling or massaging sensation.

Spinal cord stimulation is a widely accepted medical treatment. It is an FDA-approved therapy for treatment of chronic pain of the trunk and limbs (back, legs and arms). Many major health insurance plans, Medicare and worker's compensation programs provide benefits and coverage for SCS therapy.

SCS is not a cure for pain. The objective with this therapy is to reduce your pain to a manageable level.

Each year as many as 50,000 neurostimulators are implanted worldwide. A study of chronic pain sufferers who used neurostimulators revealed the following:

- 84% reported that their quality of life was improved or greatly improved
- 77% had good or excellent pain relief
- 82% decreased their use of pain medications

### Why Choose SCS?

Spinal cord stimulation has three significant advantages:

1. It can be very effective in relieving certain types of pain in the back, legs and arms.
2. You can try SCS before you have a permanent system placed in your body, so you'll know if the therapy will work for you.
3. The system can be turned off permanently or removed if you don't get the level of relief you desire.

### Will SCS Help Me?

Spinal cord stimulation is not for everyone—for several reasons:

- ❖ Your doctor may want to try less advanced treatment options first, such as pain medications, physical therapy, nerve blocks or other therapies.
- ❖ You may have a type of pain that does not respond well to SCS.

The best way to find out if SCS could help you is to talk to your doctor about having an SCS trial.

### What Are the Potential Risks and Complications?

As with any surgical procedure or pain therapy, complications can occur. Although the risk of complications is low, you should discuss all risk factors and concerns with your doctor.

