

SPINAL CORD STIMULATOR TRIAL

A Spinal Cord Stimulator Trial is the placement of a lead into the epidural space in the thoracic (mid back) area. The epidural space is an area located outside of the spinal cord area.



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How Does SCS Therapy Work?

SCS may sound complicated, but it's actually pretty simple. SCS systems have a small implanted pulse generator, called a stimulator, and thin wires called leads. These are implanted into your body. The stimulator delivers tiny pulses of mild electric current through the leads to specific nerves on the spinal cord. These impulses mask pain signals traveling to the brain.

A remote control allows you to turn stimulation on and off, increase and decrease the level of stimulation, and target different pain areas in your body using settings or programs designed specifically for you. This stimulation does not get rid of what's causing the pain. It changes the way the brain perceives it. SCS therapy may use a gentle tingling or fluttering sensation to replace the pain. Other forms of SCS therapy don't cause any sensation at all. The amount of pain relief you feel is different for everyone, but the therapy is considered successful if it reduces your pain by at least 50%.

Explanation of Procedure

- You will be asked to arrive at least 1 hour prior to your scheduled procedure.
- You will be asked to sign an informed consent form.
- An IV will be placed in your arm prior to the procedure.
- Prophylactic antibiotics will be administered by the nurse.

- The spinal cord stimulator representative will meet with you to prepare for the procedure, including asking questions regarding the location of your pain.
- Once the antibiotic is completed, you will be assisted into the procedure room.
- You will be on your stomach for the duration of the procedure.
- Your back will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution and your skin will be numbed with a local anesthetic.
- The Provider will use fluoroscopy (x-ray) to guide the placement of the leads into the epidural space.
- The leads will be attached to a battery.
- The leads will be secured in place and a dressing will be applied. The procedure is complete.
- You may be asked to stay in the recovery area for approximately 30-60 minutes. The spinal cord stimulator representative will meet with you during your recovery time to discuss how the stimulator works and provide you with contact information during your trial.
- The trial period for a SCS usually lasts about 5 to 7 days, although this can vary depending on the specific protocol of the healthcare provider and the individual needs of the patient.
- At your next visit, the Provider will remove the temporary leads and will discuss the effectiveness of your trial to determine if you would benefit from a permanent spinal cord stimulator implant.

*****PLEASE CALL 424.254.3592 TO CANCEL YOUR APPOINTMENT IF YOU HAVE: A FEVER, THE FLU, A COLD OR ANY OTHER**

REMEMBER: You are not permitted to drive after your procedure. You must have someone drive you home or the procedure will be cancelled.