



Justin Minyard

Spinal Cord Stimulation Now Offered At Graham

Spinal Cord Stimulation, or SCS, may offer hope for many of the estimated 100 million people who suffer from chronic pain. SCS sends electrical impulses that trigger nerve fibers along the spinal cord, masking the pain message traveling to the brain. When this happens, the painful sensation is replaced with a soothing, tingling sensation.

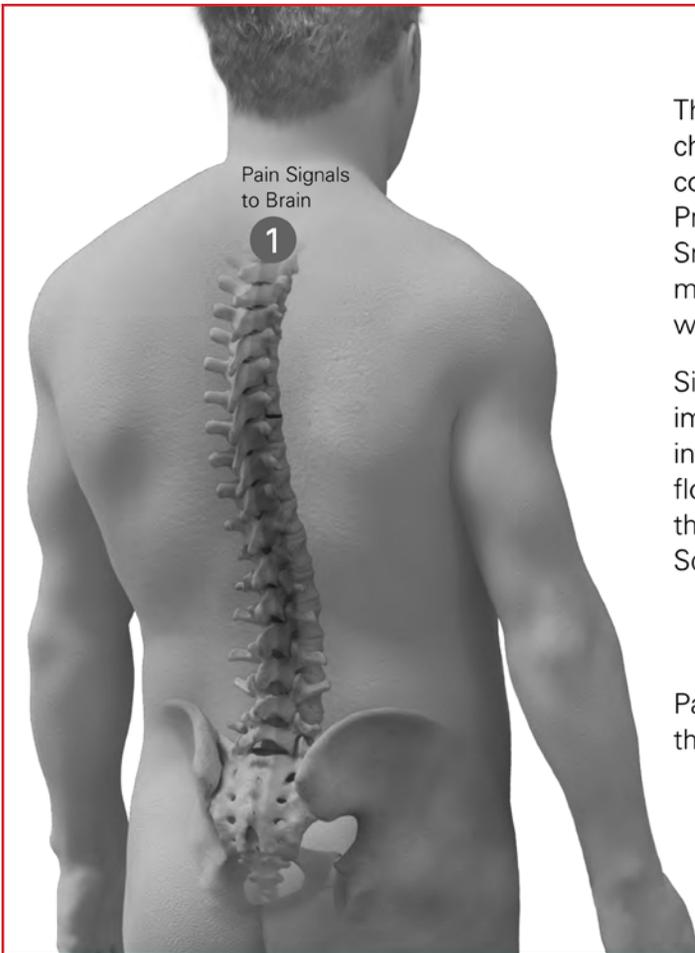
SCS may be prescribed for chronic intractable pain of the trunk and/or limbs, including unilateral or bilateral pain associated with the following: failed back surgery syndrome, intractable low back pain and leg pain. Many people with failed back surgeries have had success with SCS. Thousands of patients with severe chronic painful conditions have received relief with spinal cord stimulation.

About the Procedure

One of the advantages of SCS therapy is that the patient gets to “test drive” an external version of the device to see if spinal cord stimulation is a treatment option for their pain.

During the “test drive,” insulated leads are inserted through a needle or small incision in an anesthetized area near the spinal cord. As a part of the procedure, the patient may give the physician feedback on where to place the leads for maximum pain reduction.

Once the physician locates the “sweet spot,” the leads are connected to an external trial stimulator that is tucked inside an external belt. The patient also gets a wireless remote control so they can increase or decrease the electrical impulses to manage their pain. The external version



There’s no dancing around the fact that chronic pain management is a vexing, complicated challenge. So in designing Precision Spectra™ SCS Therapy with SmoothWave™ Technology, the medical minds of Boston Scientific decided to start with a simple, basic premise:

Since pain is carried by electrical nerve impulses along the spinal cord to the brain, intervening in the nervous system’s impulse flow is the key to managing pain. Upon that firm base of knowledge, Boston Scientific SCS Therapy was born.

Pain signals travel along nerve fibers through the spinal cord to the brain. 1



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“The staff was very friendly. I was impressed by the way they worked together and kept me calm the whole time. It was a very quick, in-and-out surgery.”

is typically worn anywhere from a few days to one week.

This trial period gives the patient the opportunity to decide if SCS manages their pain.

Permanent Implantation

After the “test drive,” the patient and physician decide whether or not spinal cord stimulation is a therapy option. If they decide to go forward, then the patient will undergo a surgical procedure to permanently place the Precision™ Implantable Pulse Generator. The leads may be inserted in a procedure similar to an epidural. In some cases, a physician may recommend a surgical lead, also known as a paddle lead. In this case, the paddle lead is placed at the target site during the surgical procedure. Patients may remain awake during this procedure, under local anesthesia and light sedation. In other cases, general anesthesia may be administered.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Feather or Dr. Henry, please call: (309) 647-0201.

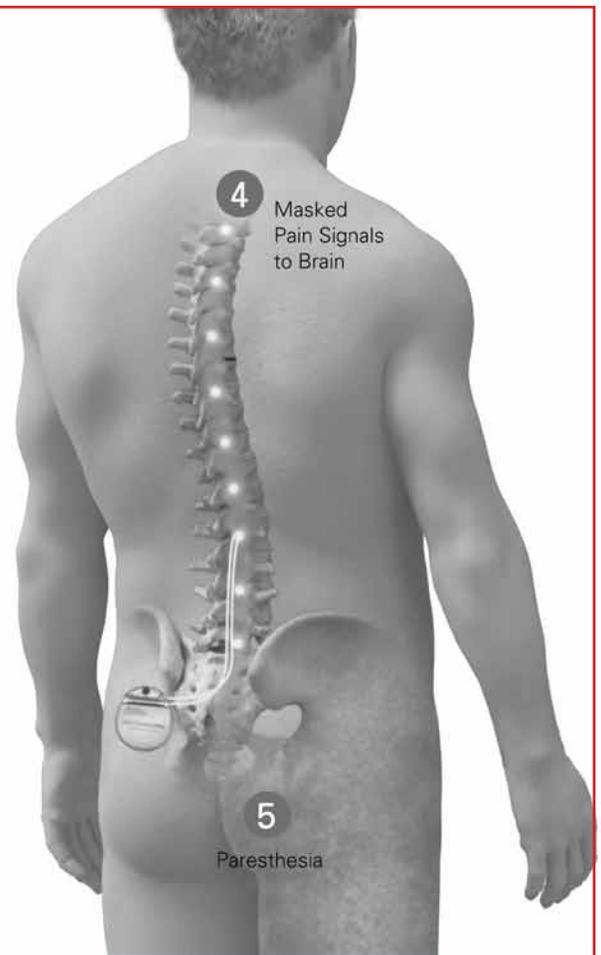


How SCS Works

A small pulse generator **2** and insulated wires **3** are implanted into the body.

Directed by an external remote control, electrical impulses from the pulse generator mask pain signals as they travel to the brain **4**—where they’re perceived as a gentle, tingling feeling called paresthesia. **5**

Result: a soothing, smoothing sensation. All without major surgery.



Dr. Glen Feather



Dr. Kevin Henry

“The anesthesiologist was outstanding. He did a very good job.”