

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROCEDURE

STIMULATOR IMPLANTATION

How we do the procedure

A **stimulator implantation** involves minor same day surgery to place a Medtronic or American Neuromodulation Systems Spinal Cord Stimulation System under the skin that is used to create a gentle stimulation in the same area as your pain to block pain perception. Before a stimulator implantation is considered, patients must have gone through a psychological clearance and a successful outpatient spinal cord stimulation trial. The surgery takes about two hours. It is done with local skin infiltration of an anesthetic (numbing medicine) and intravenous (IV) sedation administered by an anesthesiologist who will be there to monitor your vital signs during the surgery. You will have two incisions, one in the back (upper for neck and arm pain, lower for back and leg pain) to place the electrode(s) and one in the abdomen to place the generator or receiver. Typically, you will be able to go home within a few hours after the surgery is completed. We will see you in the office to get the right stimulation pattern needed to keep you comfortable.

We use a computer programmer or control unit to tell the stimulator how to work. With the fully implantable system, a battery change (replacing the generator) has to be done every 4 years or so.

What to expect

The surgical incisions will hurt for a few days. There is always a chance of wound infections even with prophylactic antibiotics and utmost sterile technique. Watch for redness, severe swelling and pain, drainage, and fever. If a significant infection occurs, we may have to remove the spinal cord stimulation system.

.

Safety Precautions

Since your ability to drive may be impaired for a few hours, someone must drive you home after the surgery.

If you develop any significant problems, please call us so that we may recommend appropriate actions or, if you feel that it is a serious problem, go to the emergency room for evaluation.