
March 8th, 2018

PITTSBURGH, PA, March 8, 2018 // -- Dr. Jocelyn Idema, Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon with Advanced Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, performed one of the first implants of Boston Scientific’s new Spectra WaveWriter™ Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) System in Pennsylvania. It is the first and only system approved by the FDA in January 2018 to simultaneously provide paresthesia-based and sub-perception therapy. The system allows physicians and patients to combine therapeutic options, customize therapy and capture real-time feedback designed to treat chronic and debilitating pain successfully.

SCS works by sending low electrical pulses, which vary in frequency, pulse width and amplitude, to the spinal cord to interrupt pain signals. Paresthesia-based therapy provides pain relief with a light tingling sensation while sub-perception therapy works without that sensation. With the Spectra WaveWriter System, patients can choose to combine both of these therapies to target one specific area of pain or use each therapy as needed to best manage multiple areas of pain. Patients provide real-time feedback using the system's remote control. Together, these features benefit patients by addressing each individual's unique pain relief needs.

“I’ve been putting SCS devices for the a number of years and there are quite of few different indications to do so.” When you have a patient that suffers from chronic pain and the character of that pain changes over time, the patient and their body become tolerant to that pain. The WaveWriter programming allows for flexible and adaptable options for patients that suffer from chronic pain,” said Dr. Jocelyn Idema, Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon with Advanced Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. “We’ve had limited options for offering customized pain relief to our patients but the (Spectra) WaveWriter is a new option.” She further goes on to say “There are many advantages to the new Spectra WaveWriter System as it can offer multiple waveforms from a single device. This in turn allows for customization of that particular patient and their individual chronic pain control needs.” Dr. Idema further reports that “I am confident that these emerging technologies will continue to provide a non-opioid alternative for chronic pain as we are all challenged by our nations opioid epidemic.”

The Spectra WaveWriter System was developed with more than a decade of clinical research focused on optimizing sub-perception and delivering multiple therapies intended for more effective, long-term pain relief. These studies include the WHISPER study and the PROCO study. The PROCO study was a multi-center, prospective, double-blind, randomized study in which patients acted as their own control. This study established in de novo patients that similar pain relief and improvement in quality of life measures are achieved independent of the type of frequency (from 1 kHz up to 10 kHz) used in sub-perception SCS.
therapy when the proper target and dose are identified. The WHISPER study is a multi-center, prospective, cross-over, randomized, and controlled study evaluating the long-term safety and effectiveness of sub-perception SCS pain relief therapy. "We are introducing industry-leading SCS technology to help provide patients with lasting relief from chronic pain," said Maulik Nanavaty, president and senior vice president, Neuromodulation, Boston Scientific. "We are committed to investing in research and expanding treatment options for chronic pain by identifying new, non-opioid solutions for the millions of people suffering from this debilitating condition."

More than 100 million Americans suffer from chronic pain and it is the number one cause of disability in adults in the U.S. SCS is a non-opioid alternative for treating chronic pain. While prescriptions for opioids have quadrupled since 1999, the amount of pain reported in the U.S. has not changed. 3

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