

AM I A  
CANDIDATE FOR  
SPINAL CORD  
STIMULATION  
(SCS)?

People whose back or neck pain has not been relieved by back surgery or other treatments may have another option to consider: spinal cord stimulation. Careful screening is needed because spinal cord stimulation does not work for everyone. Most people who are good candidates for the therapy, however, report at least a 50% reduction in pain, as well as significant improvement in daily functioning.

WHAT  
CONDITIONS  
ARE  
APPROVED  
FOR SCS?

- Failed Back Surgery Syndrome
- CRPS
- Arachnoiditis
- RSD
- Phantom Limb/Stump Pain
- Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy
- HIV induced Neuropathy
- Refractory angina

HOW  
DOES  
SCS  
WORK?

Spinal cord stimulation, also called neurostimulation, directs mild electrical pulses to interfere with pain messages reaching the brain. A small device implanted near the spine generates these pulses. The implanted generator used in spinal cord stimulation has similarities to a cardiac pacemaker, leading some to call the device a pacemaker for pain.

Unlike most treatments requiring surgery, spinal cord stimulation can be tried for a short time before a person commits to having the implant or having any lasting negative effects. The trial period is part of a two-step screening process to select those most likely to benefit. Should a patient not want the trial anymore, the lead is pulled out in the office, and a small bandage is applied—a simple, painless process. After the removal of the trial device, you will be referred to neurosurgery for permanent implantation.

