



## Spinal cord stimulation

### **What is a spinal cord stimulator?**

A spinal cord stimulator is a small, flexible "lead" that is placed in the epidural space of patients with certain pain conditions in order to provide continuous relief from their painful condition. Indications for this device are numerous and include peripheral neuropathy (secondary to metabolic abnormalities, vascular compromise, etc.), chronic radicular pain from the spine (cervical/lumbar) with pain into the arms and legs, failed back surgery syndrome (prior back surgery with continued pain), complex regional pain syndrome (I and II), and others. This device is not for every chronic pain condition but for the appropriate patient pain relief can be significant. The device leads are implanted for a trial period (not permanent) of approximately 7 days to evaluate if you will get relief from the device. The battery unit will be external and easily accessible during this time. No showering is allowed during the trial period and you are asked to return to the office for removal of the trial lead(s). This portion takes less than 10 seconds and is done in the office setting. If the trial is successful then the device can be implanted in the near future. The permanent implant process is slightly more time consuming as an external battery device will have to be placed subcutaneously but the general process is the same as it was for the trial. More information can be given in the office if it is felt that you are a candidate for this technology including an informational DVD.