



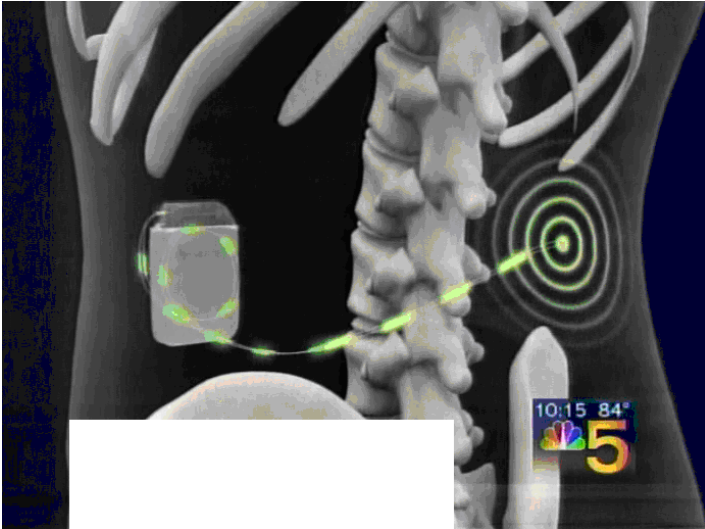
ADVANCED PAIN CENTERS: Helping you evolve to a pain free state.

NEUROSTIMULATORS

Peripheral Nerve Field Stimulation (PNFS)

Phone: (847) 608-6620 Toll Free: (877) 964-7246

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NEUROSTIMULATORS

Peripheral Nerve Field Stimulation (PNFS) or Sub Q Stimulators.

PNFS is a relatively recent development in the treatment of chronic low back and neck pain, as well as shingles and other conditions. Our physicians were the 1st in the world to report success using PNFS for neck pain. This approach is increasingly recognized as a safe, minimally invasive, and easily reversible treatment for a variety of chronic pain conditions. Leads are placed superficially in the region of maximal pain, as identified by each individual patient.

Question #1: Is this approach FDA approved?

Answer: No, the equipment used is all FDA approved but this approach is not, even though it is much safer than other procedures that are FDA approved. PFNS can not lead to spinal cord trauma since the leads are not placed next to the spinal cord.

Question #2: How long has it been used for?

Answer: Over 10 years, mainly for headaches in the back of the head. Only in the last 3 years

have papers describing its effect on lower back pain been available.

Question #3: What do patients need to do to have this procedure done?

Step #1: Patients are selected for this procedure when no other pain control approaches are likely to work and /or the patient is not a surgical candidate.

Step #2: Patient undergoes a psychological evaluation; this is a state requirement.

Step #3: Insurance coverage is verified, this can be the longest step.

Question #4: How is the implant actually done?

Trial Phase, or Phase I: This may be done in the office suite or in an operating room. The patient reports their location of the pain to be treated and those sites are carefully marked. Next, the leads (or electrical tubes) are placed under the skin using special needles. The needles are removed and the leads are sutured to the skin, no incisions are made. X-rays of the lead location are taken. The patient goes home with those leads and an external power source that is controlled by the patient. The trial lasts 1 to 4 weeks. At the end of Phase I, the leads are removed.

Permanent Phase, or phase #2:

The patient is brought to the operating room and the permanent leads are placed in the same location as in Phase I. Up to 4 leads can be placed. One to three incisions of up to an inch are made to place the leads. Next, the leads are tested, while still in the O.R., to verify proper stimulation of the correct sites. Then another incision is made and the IPG or the power source is placed under the skin and all electrical connections are secured. See figure.

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