

Advanced Pain Centers News Letter: Issue 1- Volume 1



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Over the years people have joked with us stating that we should have a “block du jour” because of all of the innovative ideas that we have helped develop. So without further adieu, we are introducing Advanced Pain Center’s monthly news letter to help create awareness about what is new in Pain Management. Each excerpt is for informational use only, and we encourage your feedback. If you have any topics that you would like us to address, please forward your thoughts to: kevinb@painmngt.com

Addressing Pain Management Needs Through Innovation: From the Simplest to the Most Complex

Failed Back Surgery Syndrome (FBSS) / Hybrid Neurostimulator

The management of chronic, persistent low back and leg pain is one of the most difficult challenges for treating physicians. This is especially true among patients with chronic pain due to failed back surgery syndrome (FBSS), a vague term defined clinically as persistent or recurrent pain following otherwise anatomically successful surgery on the lumbar spine.

Over 300,000 spinal fusions are performed annually in the United States, a significant number of which result in FBSS. The more common causes of post surgical pain are: Sacroiliac Joint pain (SI) which is found in 30% of patients following fusions, and graft site pain. Other possible pathophysiologic causes for FBSS are myriad and may include, but are not limited to, epidural scarring, dural sac deformity, arachnoiditis, and persistent spinal instability. Most of these patients have persistent pain that is unresponsive or poorly responsive to opioids or other medications.

If the SI joint, graft site pain and epidural scar tissue treatments fail, a new effective approach is now available. It is called the “*hybrid neurostimulator*” and it is the simultaneous use of spinal cord and peripheral nerve field stimulation to treat low back and leg pain.

Dorsal Column Stimulator {DCS} also known as *Spinal Cord Stimulator {SCS}* has been used in clinical practice since 1968 and is very effective for controlling radicular pain, but rarely provides adequate control of pain in the lower back. Recently, a technique of PNFS (Peripheral Nerve Field Stimulation) was introduced to control pain in a group of patients for whom back pain dominated the clinical picture. Because PNFS does not control neuropathic pain due to lumbosacral radiculopathy involving the lower extremities, we developed a “*hybrid*” technique of DCS and PNFS that offers potential control of both axial pain in the lumbar area and radicular pain to the lower extremities. Its successful use was presented at neurosurgical conferences in Canada and Italy in 2009. The “*hybrid neurostimulator*” is an implant combination of DCS and PNFS. Here the implants are placed in DCS fashion for leg pain and PNFS for the back pain

