



**Headache &
PAIN CENTER**
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Trial of Spinal Cord Stimulation (SCS)

Defintion: Previously called dorsal column stimulation, a spinal cord stimulator is used to treat shoulder and arm pain, or buttock and leg pain that has not responded to other treatment including surgery. The procedure is outpatient and involves placing an electrode (wire), like a pacemaker wire, into the epidural space under x-ray (fluoroscopic) guidance. The electrode is connected to a small battery pack (generator) and when turned on gives a pleasant tingling sensation in the arm or leg.

Reasons for Treatment: Arm or leg pain that is caused by nerve damage, injury, poor blood flow, or failed surgery.

Procedure: You can be sedated with anesthesia so that pain from the procedure will be minimal. An electrode will be inserted into the epidural space and this will be sutured to the skin and kept in place for 3-5 days. The stimulation will be adjusted to cause a tingling in the area where there was pain before. Take sponge baths during the trial stimulator phase so the electrode doesn't get wet. Antibiotics may be given to prevent an infection. If this trial spinal cord stimulator is effective in relieving pain, you may be referred for a permanent spinal cord stimulator that is implanted.

