



MANAGING CHRONIC PAIN

The Value of Medical Technology

The medical technology industry is continually advancing and developing new innovations that improve the health and well-being of patients worldwide.

What is chronic pain?

Pain is the number one reason that patients access the health care system. Cases of chronic pain are the leading cause of adult disability in the United States. Chronic pain also adversely affects mental and emotional well-being.²

Did you know

- One in three Americans suffers from chronic pain.
- 40 percent of Americans experience daily pain.
- Chronic pain costs up to \$635 billion each year in medical treatment and lost productivity.³

Managing chronic pain with medical technology solutions

Medical technology can provide solutions to managing chronic pain that can lessen a patient's use of opioids and other oral pain medications, and improve quality of life.⁴

Spinal Cord Stimulators (SCS)

- Use electrical signals to block pain signals from reaching the brain.
- The system is minimally invasive and is trialed for efficacy before a patient receives a permanent implant.
- Covered by Medicare and most commercial health insurance plans.
- Patients who use SCS have reported a 50 percent or greater reduction in pain, improving quality of life and reducing disability.⁵

Neuroablation

- Uses minimally invasive surgery to heat up a small area of nerve or tissue, blocking pain signals traveling from the pain area to the brain.
- Can be performed as an outpatient procedure and usually does not require general anesthesia.

Implantable Drug Pumps

- Deliver pain medication directly to the fluid surrounding the spinal cord.
- Reduce the amount of opioids needed to relieve pain.⁶

Diagnostic Tests

- Monitor pain medication use, helping assure the appropriate treatment for patients who can be helped by medications.
- Eliminate or significantly curtail opioid abuse.⁷

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2. American Chronic Pain Association. ACPA Resource Guide To Chronic Pain Medication & Treatment. 2015.
3. Institute of Medicine, Relieving Pain in America
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5. International Neuromodulation Society. "Neurostimulation lowers need for opioids in chronic pain." ScienceDaily, 2013. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/06/130610084019.htm.
6. Hamza M, Doleys D, Wells M, et al. Prospective study of 3-year follow-up of lowdose intrathecal opioids in the management of chronic nonmalignant pain. Pain Med. 2012;13:1304-1313.
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