

**DORSAL ROOT GANGLION (DRG) STIMULATION**

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**DISCLOSURES**

- Consultant - St. Jude Medical
- Consultant - Horizon Pharma



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**OUTLINE**

- Introduction
- Clinical Evidence
- Disease State: Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
- DRG Patient Selection
- Case Studies



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## DRG: REVIEW OF ANATOMY

The DRG: A collection of pseudounipolar cell bodies of neurons surrounded by glial cells and the axons of the DRG sensory cells that form the primary afferent sensory nerve

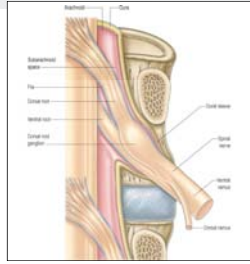


Image from: Gray's Anatomy (2005); Standing, S. (Ed.)

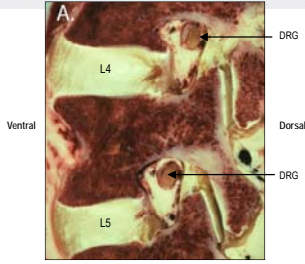


Image from: Hogan Q. Reg Anesth Pain Med. 2010.

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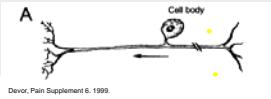
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## THE PECULIAR PROPERTIES OF THE DORSAL ROOT GANGLION

- Special structure: DRG neurons have a peculiar pseudounipolar morphology – unique in the nervous system
- Unique Function: T-junctions act as the filter function for cell transduction and potential neuromodulation target
- Highly Organized and Selective: Small and large soma consistent with axonal specificity of sensory transduction therefore dictating electrophysiological selectivity
- Specialized Membrane Characteristics: Somata of many DRG neurons have the specialized membrane characteristics necessary for spike initiation, and some are even capable of repetitive firing
- Minimal CSF: Subdural structure with minimal surrounding CSF unlike the spinal cord



Devor, Pain Supplement 6, 1999.

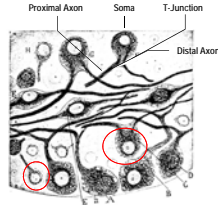


Fig. 20. Nerve cells of a sensory ganglion in various stages of maturation. A and B, multipolar neurons showing the initiation of the neurofibrils. C, bipolar neuron. Ramon y Cajal, et al. (Eds.) Histology, 1933.

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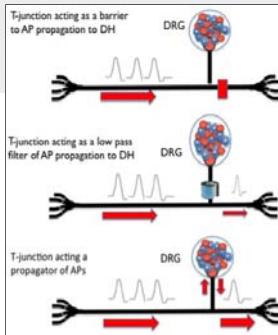
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## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE T-JUNCTION



Krames ES. Pain Medicine. 2014.

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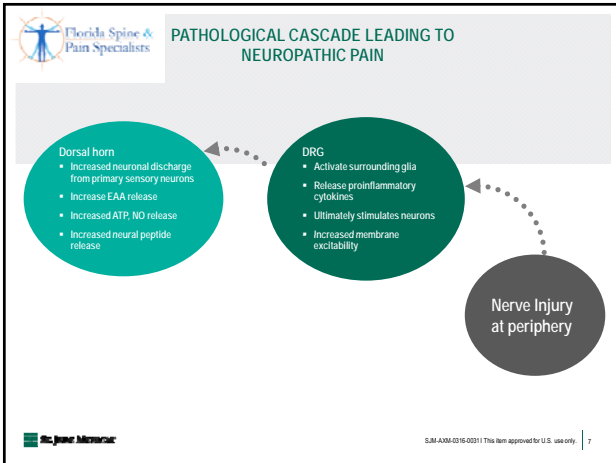
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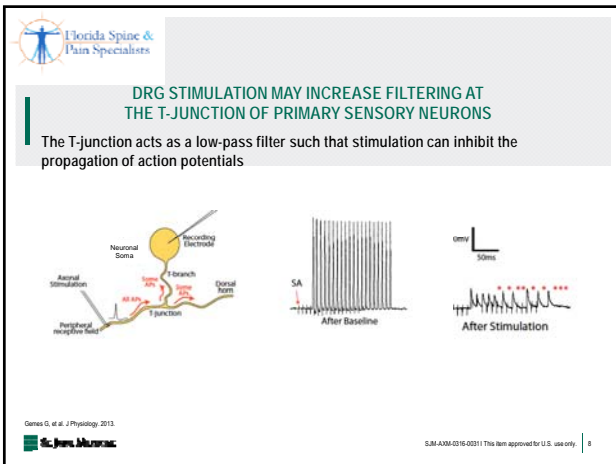
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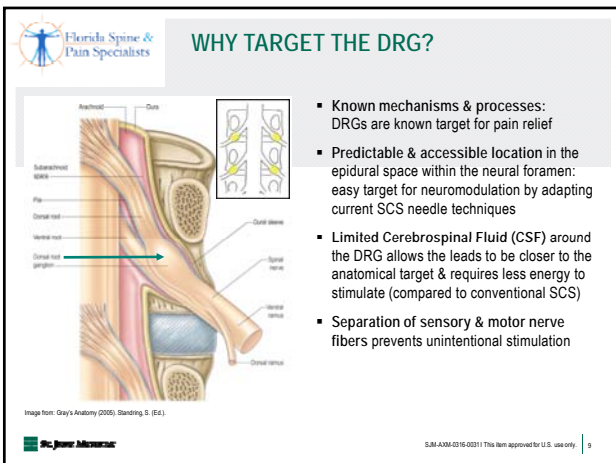
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## WHY TARGET THE DRG?

DRGs

Spinal Column

T12

L1

L2

L3

L4

L5

Abdomen/Groin/Back

Hip/Groin/Waist/Back

Upper Leg & Low Back

Lower & Upper Leg/Low Back

Leg & Low Back

Foot/Lower Leg/Low Back

Well mapped & organized to corresponding anatomies – allowing for highly focused treatment of pain

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## LIMITATIONS OF CONVENTIONAL SCS

Unstable Stimulation

- Susceptible to body position due to variations in distance between stimulation lead & target
- Lead migrations rates (percutaneous) reported between 9-27%<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Unspecific Stimulation

- Broad Stimulation Coverage: targeting spinal cord sensory nerves
- Unspecific to anatomical location of pain/disease
- Energy is delivered to multiple types of nerves, not just pain- or disease-specific nerves

High Energy Usage

- Significant energy loss to surrounding anatomy (i.e. cerebral spinal fluid, CSF) before stimulation reaches target in spinal cord

Conventional SCS

DRG

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## IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS LIMITS OF CONVENTIONAL SCS

Unstable Stimulation ✓ Limited Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) around the DRG allows the leads to be closer to the anatomical target: potentially producing less postural effects (compared to conventional SCS)<sup>1,2</sup>

Unspecific Stimulation ✓ Separation of sensory & motor nerve fibers may prevent unintentional stimulation  
Well mapped & organized to corresponding anatomies – allowing for highly focused treatment of pain

High Energy Usage ✓ Limited Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) around the DRG allows the leads to be closer to the anatomical target: potentially less energy needed to stimulate sensory fibers (compared to conventional SCS)

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**CLINICAL EVIDENCE**

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**ACCURATE STUDY**

A Prospective, Randomized, Multi-Center, Controlled Clinical Trial to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of the Axiom™ Neurostimulator System in the Treatment of Chronic Pain

Levy R and Deer T. NANS 2015

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**ACCURATE STUDY: OBJECTIVE AND STUDY DESIGN**



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    graph TD
      A["N = 152 Subjects Randomized (1:1)"] --> B["DRG (n = 76)"]
      A --> C["Control (n = 76)"]
      B --> D{"Trial"}
      C --> E{"Trial"}
      D --> F["≥ 50% VAS reduction"]
      E --> F
      F --> G["Implant"]
      G --> H["1 Month Visit"]
      H --> I["3 Month Visit (Primary Endpoints)"]
      I --> J["6 Month Visit"]
      J --> K["9 Month Visit"]
      K --> L["12 Month Visit"]
  
```

- Objective: To assess the safety and efficacy of DRG stimulation compared to a commercially available SCS device
- 152 subjects enrolled
- Randomized 1:1 ratio
  - DRG vs.
  - Control (commercially available SCS device)
- 22 Investigational sites
- 3 month Primary Endpoint
- Subject population
  - Chronic, intractable pain of the lower limbs
  - Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) or Peripheral Causalgia

Levy R and Deer T. NANS 2015

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 **ACCURATE STUDY: ENDPOINTS**

**Primary endpoint: composite safety and efficacy\***

A subject was considered a primary endpoint success if the subject met 3 criteria:

- ≥50% pain relief in their primary area of pain at the end of the trial phase, and
- ≥50% pain relief in their primary area of pain at the 3 month visit post implant, and
- Freedom from stimulation-induced neurological deficit through 3 months

\*Statistically powered for non-inferiority and superiority


**Secondary endpoints**

1. Paresthesia Intensity (*post-hoc*)

**Tertiary endpoints**

1. Stimulation specificity
2. HR-QoL (SF-36)
3. Psychological disposition (Profile of Mood States: POMS)
4. Functional Status (BPI)
5. Subject satisfaction

Liley R and Deer T. NANS 2015

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 **BASELINE DEMOGRAPHICS**

	DRG (n=76)	Control (n=76)	p-value
Age (years)	Mean (SD) 52.4 (12.7)	Mean (SD) 52.5 (11.5)	0.936
Gender (n/N (%))			
Male	37/76 (48.7)	37/76 (48.7)	
Female	39/76 (51.3)	39/76 (51.3)	1.000
Duration of Lower Limb Pain (years)	7.5 (7.5)	6.8 (7.6)	0.557
Primary Diagnosis (n/N (%))			
Complex Regional Pain Syndrome	44/76 (57.9)	43/76 (56.6)	
Peripheral Causalgia	32/76 (42.1)	33/76 (43.4)	0.870

Liley R and Deer T. NANS 2015

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 **ACCURATE STUDY: OUTCOMES**

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### PRIMARY ENDPOINT

- A subject was considered a primary endpoint success if the subject met 3 criteria:
  - ≥ 50% pain relief in their primary area of pain at the end of the trial phase, and
  - ≥ 50% pain relief in their primary area of pain at the 3 month visit post implant, and
  - Freedom from stimulation-induced neurological deficit through 3 months

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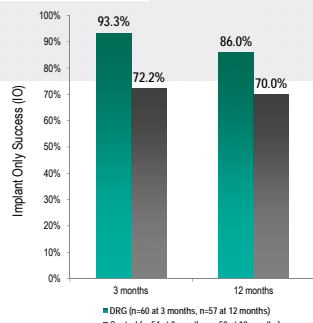
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### IMPLANT ONLY



Superiority Achieved	
P-value for non-inferiority at 3 months	<0.0001
P-value for superiority at 3 months	0.0011

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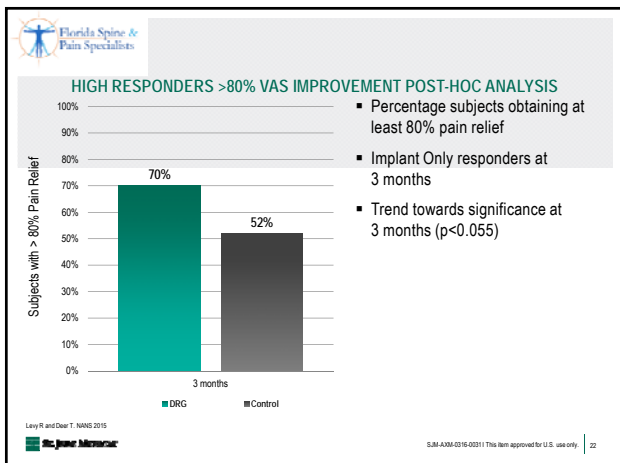
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### PARESTHESIA-FREE ANALGESIA

At 12 months, more than a third of DRG stimulation patients experienced no paresthesia, while having, on average an 86% reduction in pain, suggesting that DRG stimulation may provide paresthesia-free analgesia.\*

	DRG		Control	
	Subjects with Paresthesia	Subjects without Paresthesia	Subjects with Paresthesia	Subjects without Paresthesia
N	35	19	43	6
% Mean VAS Decrease (SD)	81.4 (22.8)	86.0 (25.3)	70.2 (34.9)	48.1 (50.8)
% Median VAS Decrease	89.1	100.0	83.0	51.2
Difference between means 95% CI	-4.6 (-18.2, 8.9)		22.1 (-10.2, 54.5)	

\* The instructions for use for the Control device requires the device be programmed for subjects to receive paresthesia. In addition, this endpoint was not adequately powered to detect significant differences in pain relief for subjects without and without paresthesia in this cohort.

Levy R and Deer T. NANS 2015. S.M. A300-0316-00311 This item approved for U.S. use only. 23

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### ACCURATE IDE CONCLUSIONS

The 12-month outcome data have confirmed DRG stimulation provides long-term, sustained and superior pain relief over traditional SCS for patients with chronic lower limb pain due to Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) and peripheral causalgia.

DRG Stimulation offered patients:

- Sustained and superior pain relief: After 12 months, significantly more DRG stimulation patients achieved pain relief and treatment success versus control SCS (74.2% vs. 53.0%)
- Improved therapeutic targeting: DRG stimulation patients reported better stimulation targeting in their area of pain without extraneous paresthesia (94.5% vs. 61.2%)
- Enhanced quality of life and functionality: DRG stimulation patients experienced improved quality of life measures, psychological disposition and physical/activity levels\*
- Reduced paresthesia: At 12 months, more than a third of DRG stimulation patients experienced no paresthesia and had on average an 86% reduction in pain, suggesting that DRG stimulation may provide paresthesia-free analgesia.\*

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\* Devices were not statistically powered to show superiority over traditional tonic stimulation.

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**DISEASE STATE:**  
Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

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**WHAT IS COMPLEX REGIONAL PAIN SYNDROME (CRPS)?**

Historically also known as causalgia, reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD)\*.

*"CRPS is a chronic pain condition characterized by continuing (spontaneous and/or evoked) regional pain that is seemingly disproportionate in time or degree to the usual course of pain after trauma or other lesion. The pain is regional (not in a specific nerve territory or dermatome) and usually has a distal predominance of abnormal sensory, motor, sudomotor, vasomotor edema, and/or trophic findings."*

*International Association for the Study of Pain*

\*Please note that in 1994, a consensus group of pain medicine experts gathered by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) reviewed diagnostic criteria and agreed to rename reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD) and causalgia, as complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) types I and II, respectively.

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**PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF CRPS IS NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD**

Multifactorial process involving both peripheral and central mechanisms

- Possible mechanisms involved in CRPS
- Nerve injury
- Ischemic reperfusion injury or oxidative stress
- Central sensitization
- Peripheral sensitization
- Altered sympathetic nervous system function or sympatho-afferent coupling
- Inflammatory and immune related factors
- Brain changes
- Genetic factors
- Psychological factors and disuse

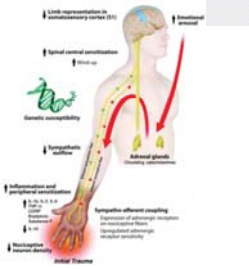


Image from: Buehl S. Anesthesiology 2010\*

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\*DRG stimulation therapy with the Axium™ Neurostimulator system is not indicated for areas outside of the lower limbs.

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### CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS CHANGE OVER TIME

Acute phase – mixture of noxious sensations and sensory loss → Months – clinical features spread proximally → > 5 years

- Extremely painful limb
- Redness
- Warm (can quickly become cold)
- Swollen
- Allodynia
- Hyperalgesia
- Changes in sweating
- Changes in hair and nail growth
- Muscle weakness
- Mechanical and thermal hyperalgesia
- Reduction in voluntary motor control
- Hyperpathia
- Hypoesthesia, hypalgesia, and hypothermia

- Warm limb often becomes cold
- Dystonia, tremor, and myoclonus may develop
- Activity of the limb exacerbates signs and symptoms
- Clinical features may spread proximally (but not distally) and emerge on the opposite or ipsilateral limb

- Urological symptoms
- Syncope
- Mild cognitive defects

Marmes J, et al. Lancet Neurology 2011.

**McGraw Hill**

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### PAIN RELIEVING EFFECTS OF CONVENTIONAL SCS DIMINISH OVER TIME

- Objective: Prospective RCT to determine whether treatment of CRPS with conventional SCS and PT is more effective than PT alone
  - 5 year analysis compared 31 patients with SCS device and 13 patients in control group
- After 3 years, pain-alleviating effect of conventional SCS in CRPS patients is no longer statistically significant

Follow-up (year)	Conventional SCS + PT	PT alone
Baseline	~6.5	~6.5
1	~4.5	~6.5
2	~4.5	~6.5
3	~5.5	~6.5 (p=0.29)
4	~5.5	~6.5
5	~5.5	~6.5

Kanter MA, et al. NEJM 2006, 2006.

**McGraw Hill**

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### LIMITED CLINICAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT TRADITIONAL CRPS TREATMENT REGIMENS

Treatment	Category	Supporting Clinical Studies Status
Multidisciplinary treatment	Standard	None
PT and OT	Standard	Positive
Oral corticosteroids (for acute CRPS)	Standard	Positive
Anticonvulsants	Standard	Equivocal
Analgesic antidepressants	Standard	None
Transdermal lidocaine	Standard	None
Opioids	Standard	None
Sympathetic nervous system blocks	Standard	Negative
Conventional spinal cord stimulation	Standard	Positive, but < 5 year efficacy
Pain focused on psychological therapy	Standard	None
Graded motor imagery or mirror therapy	Uncommon	Positive
Calcitonin	Uncommon	Positive
Topical dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO)	Uncommon	Positive (warm CRPS)
Oral N-acetylcysteine	Uncommon	Positive (cold CRPS)
Biophosphonates	Emerging	Positive
Subanaesthetic intravenous ketamine	Emerging	Positive
Intravenous immunoglobulin	Emerging	Positive
Oral tadalafil	Emerging	Positive
Intrathecal baclofen (CRPS + dystonia)	Emerging	Positive
Low dose oral naltrexone	Emerging	None

**McGraw Hill**

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## DRG THERAPY PATIENT SELECTION

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### APPROVED INDICATIONS FOR DRG STIMULATION THERAPY

**CRPS I (RSD)**  
 Characterized by extreme pain out of proportion to the original injury with evidence of allodynia and hyperalgesia.

**CRPS II (Peripheral Causalgia)**  
 Painful condition arising from damage to a nerve<sup>1,2</sup>. This neuropathic condition results in chronic pain, generally restricted to the innervation pattern of the damaged nerve(s).  
 Common example: Ilioinguinal neuralgia following hernia repair.

But, Who Are These Patients?

1. van Eijsa F, Stanton-Hicks M, Van Zundert J, Faber CG, Lubnow TR, Mekhal N, van Kleef M, Huygen F. Pain Pract. 2011;Jan-Feb;11(1):70-87. Epub 2010 Aug 27.  
 2. Bonica's Management of Pain. Scott M. Fishman, Jane C. Ballantyne, James P. Rathnel (Eds.), Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2010.

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### PATIENT IDENTIFICATION

Diagnosis				
CRPS I (RSD)		CRPS II (Peripheral Causalgia)		
Cause				
<b>Surgical Nerve Injury</b> e.g. arthroscopy, joint replacement, complex fractures, amputation, hernia repair, nerve ablation	<b>Radiation/Chemical Nerve Injury</b> e.g. chemotherapy, radiation therapy,	<b>Crush Injury</b> e.g. car/work accidents, complex fractures, tibial plateau, trimalleolar ankle		
Anatomical Pain Area				
Hip	Groin	Knee	Ankle	Foot

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### DRG STIMULATION THERAPY: SUMMARY

- Unique pain processes and anatomical considerations make the Dorsal Root Ganglion (DRG) an ideal interventional target to treat various focal chronic pain conditions:
  - Well mapped & organized to corresponding anatomies – allowing for highly focused treatment of pain
  - Ability to adapt current SCS needle techniques due to predictable and accessible location of the DRG.
  - More precise targeting and less energy requirements due to limited CSF around the DRG
  - Prevention of unintentional stimulation due to the separation of sensory and motor fibers
- The ACCURATE study, the largest clinical trial ever performed in CRPS patients, showed that DRG stimulation provided:
  - Sustained and superior pain relief
  - Improved therapeutic targeting
- Further clinical trials should be conducted to fully understand the efficacy of DRG stimulation for the treatment of chronic intractable pain in other anatomical locations




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### AXIUM™ NEUROSTIMULATION SYSTEM

Axiom™ Neurostimulation System is the first and only FDA approved implantable neuromodulation system that targets the Dorsal Root Ganglion (DRG)



#### Major components:

- Trial Neurostimulator (not shown)
- Implantable Neurostimulator Kit
- 50cm and 90cm SlimTip™ Trial Lead Kits
- 50 cm and 90cm SlimTip Implant Lead Kits
- 50cm Lead Extension Kit
- Patient Programmer Kit (not shown)
- Clinical Programmer Kit
- 22cm Small and Big Curve Delivery Sheath Kits




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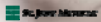
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### CASE STUDIES




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### CASE 1

- 34 year old female that presents today with complaints of right foot/ankle pain which began approximately 8 year(s) ago following a MVA in which her right foot/ankle were pinned after a front end collision.
- She reports that the pain does not radiate.
- The pain began suddenly and is continuous in nature.
- She describes the pain as constant,dull,achy, numbness, tingling, pressure like, tender.
- She reports a current level of pain as 7/10 which at worst is rated as a 9/10 and at best is rated as a 5/10.
- She reports that pain is worsened by increased activity, walking,prolonged standing, driving, lifting,going down stairs
- She reports that pain is slightly better with lying down, resting, medication.
- She has been seen by primary care doctor, physical therapy, orthopedic, podiatrist, psychiatrist for previous treatment.
- She has tried anti-inflammatory, mobic, naproxen, ibuprofen, voltaren, robaxin, neurontin, percocet, ultram/ tramadol, lidoderm patch in the past.
- She has undergone 3 foot/ankle surgeries in the past with incomplete pain relief.




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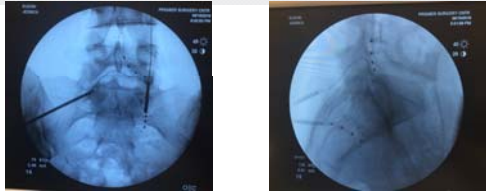
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### CASE 1




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### CASE 2

- Patient is a 52 year old male that presents with complaints of right leg pain which began approximately 15year(s) ago.
- He reports the pain began as a result of work injury in which he had a fall onto his right leg while transferring a patient
- He reports that the pain does radiate from knee to foot
- The pain began gradually and is continuous in nature.
- He describes the pain as sharp,stabbing,shooting,throbbing,burning,aching,numbness,tingling
- He reports a current level of pain as 5/10 which at worst is rated as a 8/10 and at best is rated as a 4/10.
- He reports that pain is worsened by increased activity, walking, driving.
- He reports that pain is better with resting and medication
- He has been seen by orthopedist for previous treatment.
- He has tried Morphine He has tried Physical Therapy in the past.
- He has had Imaging studies done within the past year including triple phase bone scan of LLE with findings consistent with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome.




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### CASE 2

Reviewed by CoreMed.com

McJannet International

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### CASE 3

- Patient is a 60 year old female that presents with complaints of bilateral leg , ankle, foot pain which began approximately 18 year(s) ago and left hand/wrist pain which began 5 years ago.
- She reports the pain began as a result of no inciting event.
- She has been confirmed to have complex regional pain syndrome of her left wrist/hand and the right lower leg.
- She reports that the pain does not radiate.
- The pain began suddenly and is continuous in nature.
- She describes the pain as sharp,stabbing,shooting,throbbing,burning,aching,numbness,tingling .
- She reports a current level of pain as 7/10 which at worst is rated as a 9/10 and at best is rated as a 5/10.
- She reports that pain is worsened by increased activity, walking, standing, lifting.
- She reports that pain is better with resting.
- She has been seen by primary care doctor, neurosurgeon, psychiatrist, pain physician for previous treatment.
- She has tried neurontin, oxycontin, morphine ,percoet, vicodin, lidoderm .
- She has tried spinal injections, spine surgery, and dorsal column stimulators for CRPS in her left hand and bilateral foot/ankle which is no longer providing adequate pain relief.

McJannet International

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Florida Spine & Pain Specialists

### CASE 3

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