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Dr. Ryan Sankovic Provides New Spinal Cord Stimulation Therapy for Chronic Pain Relief

For those living with chronic pain, an advanced therapy called Spinal Cord Stimulation may offer life-changing results and a renewed quality of life.

Ryan Sankovic, M.D., is a double board-certified specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Pain Medicine at Salem Regional Medical Center (SRMC). He now offers Spinal Cord Stimulation to help patients with long-term relief from chronic back, leg and nerve pain. Dr. Sankovic is the first to provide this innovative therapy to residents in the greater Columbiana County area through his affiliation with SRMC.



Dr. Sankovic

"Chronic pain can affect a person's physical and mental health, often limiting daily activities," explained Dr. Sankovic. "For those who haven't found relief through therapy, medications, injections or surgery; Spinal Cord Stimulation (SCS) can offer a proven way to reduce pain and restore an active lifestyle."

How It Works

"When your body's tissues become inflamed, nerves send pain signals through the spinal cord to the brain," he explained. "Your brain translates the signals into the pain you feel. A Spinal Cord Stimulator is an implanted device that delivers mild electrical impulses to the nerves to interrupt these signals before they reach the brain. This significantly reduces or eliminates the sensation of pain."

The system works much like a pacemaker with two parts:

- Small wires (leads) are placed near the spine, and a tiny battery pack is tucked under the skin near the lower back.
- The procedure is minimally invasive, and patients get a wireless remote to turn the device on/off or adjust the relief levels as needed.

"Before permanent implantation, patients undergo a temporary trial of about 3 to 7 days to evaluate if Stimulation therapy will be successful in reducing their pain," he added. "During this process, leads are placed near the spine with a simple procedure similar to an epidural injection and are connected to an external trial Stimulator that's usually worn on a belt or waistband."

Spinal Cord Stimulation is manufactured by Boston Scientific and is FDA-approved and covered by most health insurance plans, including Medicare, and most Workers' Compensation programs.

Make an Appointment

For more information or to make an appointment with Dr. Sankovic, call SRMC Comprehensive Pain Management at 330-482-3762. The office is located in the SRMC Surgery & Outpatient Pavilion at Firestone Farms, 400 Town Center Avenue, Suite 301, in Columbiana.