

What will happen following the trial?

Now that you have had a successful SCS trial, you will be familiar with the device that is being permanently implanted. The SCS representative will explain how to charge your SCS* and how to use the remote control.

Like your SCS trial, leads will be implanted into your spine however a small battery will be placed under your skin.



*Not all SCS models are rechargeable. Some batteries may have to be replaced after a certain amount of time.

Once implanted, there are a few things that you should keep in mind for the long term.

1. MRIs tests: Please let the technician and your doctor know of your SCS. Please consult your SCS representative if you need to have an MRI as all models vary.

2. Metal detectors will detect your SCS. When travelling, you may need a letter from your doctor to certify that you have a medical device.

3. Pregnancy: You may be asked to turn off your device if you get pregnant as this will be safer for the foetus.

For more Information,
Videos and Resources,
visit our website.

advancedspinepain.com.au

Locations

Waratah Private Hospital
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Spinal Cord Stimulation Permanent Implant

What to do before the procedure?

You must shower with chlorhexidine body wash 3-4 days prior to procedure. This antimicrobial body wash may be sourced from your local pharmacy with assistance from your usual pharmacist.

Organise transport home with a family member or friend as you will need someone to leave the hospital.

You will be advised of your fasting and admission time.

If you are on regular medication, you may take it with a sip of water on the morning of your procedure. Once admitted, the hospital will provide your usual medication.

Please tell your doctor if you are taking blood thinning medications because you might need to stop them.

Unable to take Diabetes medications morning of procedure.

Continue ALL of your pain medication as usual.

If you are a smoker, you are required to stop smoking a minimum of 7 days prior to your procedure.

What happens at the hospital?

You will be admitted for the procedure and changed into a hospital gown.

Our Anaesthetist will provide sedation before the procedure through an IV drip.

The procedure takes approximately 1 hour to two hours.

With some SCS you will be woken up during the surgery to tell us whether you can feel the stimulation in the targeted area. If you feel it in the correct area, it means that the SCS is correctly positioned in your spine.

After the procedure, you will be taken to the Recovery Room where you will rest.

Keep in mind that you will be staying 1-2 nights at the hospital.

When should I start to feel pain relief?

It may take up to 1 week for some types of stimulator however, others may have an immediate effect.

What happens when I go home?

You will be discharged 1-2 days after the surgery.

You will have water-resistant dressings on your back. You are allowed to take short showers with them. You will be asked to avoid submerging the dressings in water such as baths or swimming/hydrotherapy until the wounds have fully closed (usually after 2-3 weeks)

Most patients are discharged with antibiotics to prevent infection.

When to seek medical attention?

Contact your GP or Local Emergency Department, if you experience the following:

- A temperature above 38° that does not improve.
- Loss of bowel or bladder control.
- Loss or worsening of muscle strength in the limbs.
- A headache in the standing position that is only relieved by lying down.
- Pus coming out of the surgical wounds.

When should I come back for a follow up?

Your doctor will ask you to come back for a consult during the following 2 weeks of your surgery. Your dressings will be changed during this consult.

Two weeks after the procedure, you will be asked to visit your GP to have the wounds reassessed, cleansed and re-dressed as necessary.

What activities can I do after the injection?

In the first 24 hours: We recommend that you rest and only participate in gentle activity.

In the first 2 to 3 days: You may experience discomfort at the pocket site (where you have the battery). You may slowly increase your activity level as long as it is tolerated.

In the first 5 to 7 days: It is expected to feel slight discomfort from the battery. Kindly let us know if the discomfort is not getting any better.

You may continue your usual activities at this point.

In the first 2 to 3 months: You will be asked to avoid strenuous activities which involve reaching-up with your arms, excessive twisting or bending to prevent lead migration.

What happens after the implant?

You will be reviewed by your doctor every 3 months until everything has stabilised.

You may also get the device reprogrammed with the SCS representative as required.

We recommend you continue with your multidisciplinary management for better results in the long term.