

Midwest Interventional Spine Specialists

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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Midwest Interventional Spine Specialists is the first center to use new spinal cord stimulator for trigeminal neuralgia in Northwest Indiana.

Munster, IN, November 9, 2012. Midwest Interventional Spine Specialists (M.I.S.S.) along with Boston Scientific Neuromodulation has been the first center to take part in a 16 contact Infinion Lead spinal cord stimulator for trigeminal neuralgia.

On November 9, 2012, Dr. Shaun Kondamuri of Midwest Interventional Spine Specialists (M.I.S.S.) implanted the first insertion of Infinion Spinal Cord Stimulator into a patient in Northwest Indiana. Even more unique is that this new Boston Scientific Neuromodulation Infinion stimulator lead was used in an innovative way to treat severe facial pain due to trigeminal neuralgia in a 70-year-old St. John resident. Using very low-level electrical stimulation the patient's pain was completely resolved such that she did not require the use of pain medication anymore. This patient had been using narcotic pain medications for more than 12 years to treat this pain and had even undergone brain surgery, a craniotomy for trigeminal nerve decompression, to resolve the pain. The brain surgery was unsuccessful in treating her pain while the stimulator was extremely effective. This patient was able to eat, chew, drink, brush her teeth, etc. all without the intermittent severe burning pain from trigeminal neuralgia nor the constant pain of trigeminal neuralgia that she had been suffering from.

The use of electrical stimulation to relieve pain began in ancient times with the placement of torpedo fish directly onto painful body parts. Since then, the application of electrical stimulation has become much better and more sophisticated. In 1989 a Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) was approved by the FDA as treatment for chronic pain, the most predominant types being back pain and sciatica.

According to Medical News Today, approximately 1 in every 15,000 people is estimated to suffer from trigeminal neuralgia. About 45,000 people have trigeminal neuralgia in the United States. It is thought to affect about one million people worldwide.

Trigeminal neuralgia is a nerve disorder that causes a stabbing or shock-like pain in parts of the face. This nerve carries the feeling of touch and pain from the face, eyes, sinuses and mouth to the brain. The condition usually affects adults, but it may affect anyone at any age. Trigeminal neuralgia may be caused by multiple sclerosis or pressure on the trigeminal nerve from a swollen blood vessel or tumor. Symptoms of trigeminal neuralgia are painful spasms that usually last a few seconds or sometimes minutes and can become constant, pain on one side of the face, attacks from brushing teeth, chewing, drinking, eating, lightly touching the face or shaving. Tests normally done to detect the problem are blood tests, MRI of the head or trigeminal reflex testing. Your pain specialist can help reduce the pain and rate of attacks by using medicines or treatments.

How does SCS work? A small wire, also called a lead, is connected to a small power source and is surgically implanted under the skin. Low-level electrical signals are transmitted through the leads to the spinal cord or to specific nerves to block pain signals from reaching the brain. If the leads migrate from the exact location, paresthesia of the pain source will be decreased. Subsequently, this will increase the amount of pain felt by the person and may require follow up lead repositioning surgery.

Midwest Interventional Spine Specialists was founded in Munster, Indiana in 1996 to provide individuals with the highest quality patient care and the most advanced pain management treatments.

M.I.S.S. is responsible for numerous firsts such as sponsoring the revolutionary annual series of educational seminars in NWI and including the following: The first to implant the Synergy spinal cord stimulator for FBSS and radicular pain in NWI. The first to implant an occipital peripheral nerve stimulator for severe headache syndromes in NWI. The first Nucleoplasty procedure utilizing Coblation technology performed in NWI. The first LASE automatic percutaneous laser disc discectomy in NWI. The first Pain Specialists in NWI to perform the Functional Anaesthetic Discography (F.A.D.) procedure to diagnose discogenic or axial low back pain associated with degenerative disc disease. The first to use numerous initially innovative medication strategies which are now the standard of care in Northwest Indiana. In addition, multiple office and hospital locations make it convenient for patients to seek treatment.

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If you'd like more information or to request an interview, please call Jessica Hubbard at 219-836-7246 or email at jesslynn96@yahoo.com