

Dr. Sherri Haas of Twin Cities Pain Clinic is First Physician in Twin Cities to Provide the Latest Technology in Drug-Free Chronic Pain Management

New WaveWriter Alpha™ spinal cord stimulation (SCS) technology delivers pain relief within minutes

EDINA, Minn., Apr. 1, 2021 – On March 30, 2021, Dr. Sherri Haas of Twin Cities Pain Clinic became the first physician in the Twin Cities metro area to implant the new WaveWriter Alpha Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) System from Boston Scientific. The procedure was completed on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at Twin Cities Surgery Center in Edina, Minn.

This successful procedure is the latest in a long line of surgical milestones achieved by the doctors at Twin Cities Pain Clinic and has further expanded their opioid-free therapy options to safely and effectively treat patients suffering from chronic pain.

Chronic pain, defined as continuous and long-term pain lasting more than six months, impacts more than 50 million people in the U.S. with 19.6 million adults experiencing high-impact chronic pain that interferes with daily life or work activities¹.

SCS therapies provide chronic pain relief by sending mild electric pulses to the spinal cord to interrupt pain signals traveling to the brain. Originally introduced over 40 years ago, SCS therapy is a drug-free, FDA-approved treatment for people suffering from debilitating chronic pain amidst a national emergency of opioid addiction.

The most current SCS models, like the WaveWriter Alpha, include highly advanced features, such as:

- Implantable batteries barely larger than a silver dollar
- MRI-compatibility
- Highly customizable programming settings

Patients can also trial the device, allowing them to evaluate its effectiveness before deciding to proceed with the final implant. If necessary, the implant procedure is even fully reversible.

The WaveWriter Alpha SCS System include the proprietary Fast-Acting Sub-perception Therapy (FAST™), which is designed to provide patients immediate paresthesia-free pain relief. Paresthesia-based therapy provides pain relief with a light tingling sensation while sub-perception therapy works without that sensation. While paresthesia-free therapy has typically taken a few days or longer to take full effect, FAST can help to provide significant pain relief within minutes.

"Every patient is unique and may respond to certain treatments differently than other patients with the same condition," said Dr. Haas. "By offering breakthrough technologies like the WaveWriter Alpha system, we can identify and administer optimal therapies to provide the best possible outcomes, while also reducing the need for opioids."



Dr. Sherri Haas holding the new WaveWriter Alpha™ SCS system kit. Also pictured, Boston Scientific reps, Shannen Hirsch and Todd Morgan.

As leading authorities in the field of pain management, with a special emphasis on SCS therapy, Dr. Haas and her fellow Twin Cities Pain Clinic physicians have played a major role in the advancement and introduction of pain management technology. In 2018, Dr. Haas and her colleague Dr. Andrew Will became the first physicians in Minnesota to implant the original Spectra WaveWriter™ SCS system. In 2020, Dr. Anne Kokayeff became the first female physician in Minnesota to implant the Vertiflex™ intraspinal spacer by Boston Scientific, a device designed to relieve pain caused by lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS). And that's just naming a couple examples of milestone "firsts." On account of their expert knowledge and stellar track record, the Twin Cities Pain Clinic doctors have been hand selected by medical device companies on numerous occasions to help launch new pain management therapies into the market.

"At Twin Cities Pain Clinic, our mission is to provide our patients and community the most innovative breakthrough treatment options to improve overall health and wellness," says Dr. Haas. "I am very proud to take a leading role in living up to that mission by collaborating with Boston Scientific and our other partners in the medical device industry. Introducing these improved technologies will help ensure chronic pain sufferers around the world can look forward to relief and an improved quality of life."

Dr. Haas is the Assistant Medical Director at Twin Cities Pain Clinic and a board-certified specialist in pain management and rehabilitation. She has been a featured speaker at national pain management educational seminars and a participant in numerous clinical research studies aimed at advancing neurostimulation technology.

About Twin Cities Pain Clinic

Twin Cities Pain Clinic is a comprehensive pain management organization that has been helping patients achieve relief from chronic pain since 2003. As a leading authority in the field of chronic pain management, our organization is committed to providing every patient with a customized treatment plan consisting of the most advanced and effective therapies to provide optimal outcomes. To learn more or schedule an appointment, go online to www.twincitiespainclinic.com or call (952) 841-2345.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2019, May). Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force Report: Updates, Gaps, Inconsistencies, and Recommendations. Retrieved from U. S. Department of Health and Human Services website: <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/advisory-committees/pain/reports/index.html>

Media Contact:

Jeffrey Blanchard

Marketing Manager

952-204-3556

jeffrey.blanchard@tcpain.com

FAST MOA based on computational modeling from Dr. Warren Grill's lab at Duke University. Gilbert et al., Computational modeling predicts dorsal columns are involved in fast-acting sub-perception spinal cord stimulation (SCS). SFN 2021

Subperception stimulation has been demonstrated to be safe and effective in patients who have been treated successfully with conventional, paresthesia-inducing stimulation for at least six months. Full stimulation parameter ranges and options for both paresthesia-based and subperception therapy are available for clinician's use throughout the patient's experience and treatment with SCS.

The WaveWriter Alpha™ SCS System provides safe access to full-body MRI scans when used with specific components and the patient is exposed to the MRI environment under the defined conditions in the ImageReady™ MRI Full Body Guidelines for WaveWriter Alpha and WaveWriter Alpha Prime Spinal Cord Stimulator Systems.

Indications for Use. The Boston Scientific Spinal Cord Stimulator Systems are indicated as an aid in the management of chronic intractable pain of the trunk and/or limbs including unilateral or bilateral pain associated with the following: failed back surgery syndrome, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) Types I and II, intractable low back pain and leg pain. Associated conditions and etiologies may be: radicular pain syndrome, radiculopathies resulting in pain secondary to failed back syndrome or herniated disc, epidural fibrosis, degenerative disc disease (herniated disc pain refractory to conservative and surgical interventions), arachnoiditis, multiple back surgeries. Contraindications, warnings, precautions, side effects. The SCS Systems are contraindicated for patients who: are unable to operate the SCS System, have failed trial stimulation by failing to receive effective pain relief, are poor surgical risks, or are pregnant. Refer to the Instructions for Use provided with the SCS System or Pain.com for potential adverse effects, warnings, and precautions prior to using this product.

Caution: U.S. Federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.