

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT SPINAL CORD STIMULATION

Spinal cord stimulation (SCS) can be a helpful treatment option for individuals with severe pain and other health conditions. But there are important questions to ask and factors to consider when choosing SCS.

Ask about the provider

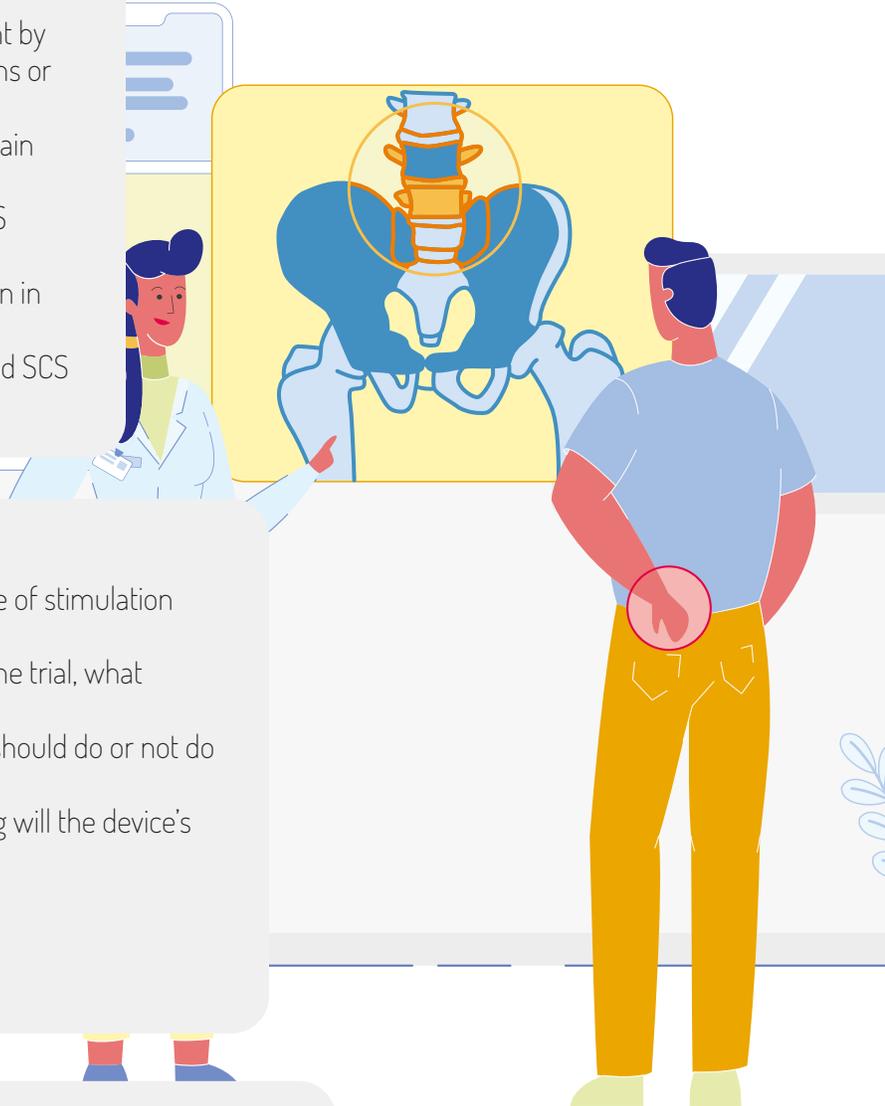
- Are you certified in interventional pain management by the American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians or Fellow of Interventional Pain Physicians?
- How long have you been practicing interventional pain management?
- How often do you treat my type of pain with an SCS device?
- In your experience, how successful has an SCS been in treating my type of pain?
- What is the experience like for people who don't find SCS helpful?

Ask about the device

- What type of device do you recommend? What type of stimulation does that device provide?
- How long will I need to trial the device for? During the trial, what should I look out for?
- Where will the leads be placed? Is there anything I should do or not do to help prevent the leads from moving out of place?
- What type of battery does the device use? How long will the device's battery last?
- Can I still get MRIs with this device?
- Can I go through airport security with this device?
- What happens if I develop tolerance to the device?

Ask about the procedure

- What is the procedure like and what can I expect?
- Will you be performing the procedure or will someone else?
- What types of risks come with the procedure?
- How long will my recovery time be? What will it be like?
- After the procedure is over, what side effects or complications should I look out for?
- When can I become active again after the procedure?
- What is the procedure like for removing the device if needed?



Learn more about your
pain management options at
uspainfoundation.org.

