Delayed Spinal Cord Stimulator Failure After Device Rotation and Lead Tangling

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INTRO

- Spinal cord stimulators (SCS) can provide very effective pain relief. However, issues with hardware remain the most common source of device complication.

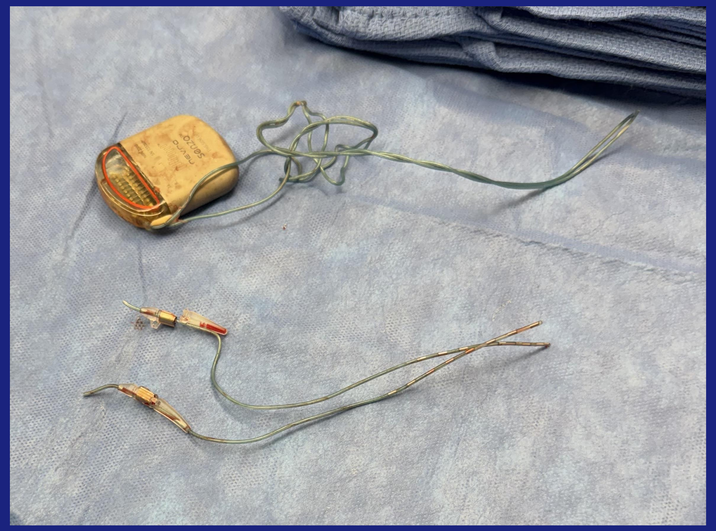
CASE REPORT

- 75 year-old female, originally had SCS implanted in 2016 for treatment of refractory post-chemotherapy neuropathic pain.
- Presented to our clinic in 2021, and neuropathic pain began worsening in 2022.
- She was unable to reestablish care with a device rep, and stopped using her stimulator.
- Requested explant of her device in 2026. At time of removal, the leads within the SCS pocket were found to be extensively twisted and tangled together.
- Of note, this patient underwent a >40lbs weight loss between her presentation to our clinic, and the time of device explant.

DISCUSSION

- It can be difficult to know exactly why a SCS is no longer providing pain relief.
- This patient experienced significant compromise to the integrity of her SCS leads due to IPG rotation within the device pocket.
- The timing of her device failure coincided with a period of substantial weight loss, which could have contributed to changes in her device pocket, allowing this rotation to occur.

Device pocket integrity should be monitored in patients undergoing significant weight loss





Obesity rates have dropped over 3% since 2022

Around 12% of Americans are taking GLP-1 medications

Device pockets may need to be revised if they are not longer adequately securing the IPG or leads

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