Have You Experienced a Spinal Cord Injury?

Following a spinal cord injury, you might also experience these symptoms of severe spasticity: stiffness, spasms, pain, and weakness. Fortunately, you have options.

Approximately 12,500 spinal cord injuries (SCIs) occur each year,[1] and between 250,000 and 320,000 people in the US currently live with SCIs.[2] In medicine, SCIs are gauged by their "completeness."

Complete Spinal Cord Injury

The spinal cord is fully severed. Patients experience loss of all feeling and the ability to control movement below the injury.

Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury

The spinal cord is partially severed. Some motor or sensory function remains below the injury. The degree of functionality depends on the severity of the injury.

As a result of faster response times and advances in treatment, more than 70% of SCIs are incomplete, leading to increasingly better patient outcomes.[3]

Severe spasticity is one of the most common side effects, affecting up to 78% of spinal cord injury sufferers.[4]

YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THIS AND YOU HAVE OPTIONS.

Symptoms of Severe Spasticity[5,6]

Stiffness

Tightness or flexing of the muscles which may make it more difficult to move or perform daily activities.

Spasms

When your muscle flexes suddenly, it can cause a part of your body to jerk. These are called spasms and happen most often in your arms, legs, hands, feet, and torso.

Pain

Stiffness and spasms can make your muscles hurt. Pain can also occur when your symptoms force you to sit or sleep in different positions.

Weakness

Weakness, fatigue, and paralysis can lead to problems with balance or coordination, making it difficult to perform daily activities.

“ITB has allowed me to accept my SCI. After 15 years of being in denial, I have a positive perspective and finally wake up every day with my life back!”

A REAL PATIENT EXPERIENCE WITH SEVERE SPASTICITY RELATED TO A SPINAL CORD INJURY[7]

RAFAEL, 48

Rafael is a 48-year-old sufferer of severe spasticity. In a rush to get to work, Rafael was involved in an auto accident that left him with a spinal cord injury. He was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from his vehicle. His spinal cord injury was the cause of severe spasticity in his back and leg, most often triggered by heat and temperature change. These symptoms made life extremely uncomfortable and would not improve without treatment. Rafael was irritable, sleepy, and limited in the activities in which he could participate. His legs were always heavy, and he felt drowsy and unhappy.

Rafael’s physician introduced him to intrathecal baclofen (ITB) therapy as an effective treatment option and answered all his questions related to pump placement and operation, checkup frequency, recreational limitations, and potential side effects. Rafael was excited and optimistic about the pump, and it was implanted within a couple of months of his first introduction to the treatment option.

Rafael’s overall quality of life has improved following his ITB treatment. He is more active, less sleepy, and finally able to relax. His spasticity is under control and does not interfere with his routine or leisure activities, including national wheelchair tennis competitions, hand cycling, water skiing, a full-time job, and spending time with friends. Additionally, one of the critical benefits of ITB therapy is the peace-of-mind it provides Rafael, who no longer must constantly consider how he’ll deal with situations that are made more difficult by severe spasticity.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR SEVERE SPASTICITY RELATED TO A SPINAL CORD INJURY.

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