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8th World Congress & 11th Annual Meeting of the International Neuromodulation Society

Abstract

The 8th world congress and 11th annual meeting of the International Neuromodulation Society (INS) was held at the Fairmont Princess Acapulco Hotel in picturesque Acapulco, Mexico. The conference held in December featured upcoming techniques in [spinal cord](#) and [peripheral nerve stimulation](#), as well as several promising case reviews in the field of [deep brain stimulation](#). New technologies were also showcased by presenters around the conference theme 'Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface'.

Complete Article

1 Feb 2008

New insights into [deep brain stimulation](#), an emerging therapy used to treat a number of diseases of the brain, were presented by Dr Konstantin Baev of St Joseph's Hospital, Arizona. The research conducted by Dr Baev is helping to boost the understanding of how [neuromodulation](#) works to improve [Parkinson's disease](#). Dr Baev's model proposes that electrostimulation works on the parts of the brain involved in motor co-ordination by disrupting the errant neural impulses that are present in Parkinson's disease. By disrupting these signals it is thought that symptoms such as resting [tremor](#) (the 'shakes') may be alleviated. It is hoped this model may be of benefit across a range of neuromodulation therapies.

A review of [peripheral nerve field stimulation](#) in the treatment of [chronic pain](#) was presented by Dr David Abejón of Peurta de Hierro University Hospital, Madrid. His investigation of peripheral nerve stimulation in areas inaccessible to [spinal cord stimulation](#) revealed a positive outcome for persistent [non-cancer pain](#). A multicentre trial is expected to follow on from this research as a result of some very successful outcomes.

Dr Konstantin Slavin presented findings from a multicentre study investigating the efficacy of spinal cord stimulation (SCS) three months after implantation. The trial compared patient pain scores before and after implantation. In addition, changes in medication use, quality of life and side events were also assessed. It was found that the use of spinal cord stimulation decreased the pain rating by an average of 58.6 % in participants and resulted in an increase in quality of life. The technique also provided good to excellent pain control in up to 77.3% of patients with up to 81.8 % of patients reporting less reliance on paincontrolling medications following implantation.

Dr Bradley Carpentier discussed the effectiveness of SCS implantation across a range of chronic pain conditions. SCS appeared to be effective at relieving all pain complaints examined by the study with the exception of low back pain. Six months post implantation pain control was rated as improved in 30-90% of cases of refractory chronic pain. In addition, SCS was associated with relatively low rates of complications in this investigation.

On a similar note Dr Line Jacques discussed the effectiveness of Spinal cord stimulation as part of a treatment approach to manage pain in patients who have not gained any improvement from back surgery. Results from a randomised controlled study in 100

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patients with **neuropathic** leg pain indicate that SCS can provide additional pain reduction and improvement in quality of life over a period of at least two years.

New technologies in SCS were showcased in the form of a novel Italian designed implant which utilises "Current fractionalisation" to reduce refractory **low back pain**. This device was trialled in a pilot study involving patients with unresolved back pain despite conventional SCS. The early results achieved with this device are promising and may lead to future improvement in control of unresolved low back pain.

The 3rd Scientific Meeting of the Australian Chapter of the International Neuromodulation Society will take place at the Perth Convention Centre on March 30, 2008. This meeting also incorporates The 28th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Pain Society.

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