



Sacral Neuromodulation Implantation

A sacral neuromodulation implantation is a surgical procedure to improve various severe urinary and sometimes gastrointestinal symptoms. You likely underwent a successful sacral neuromodulation trial and are now pursuing formal device implantation. You will have discussed alternative options with your urologist prior to deciding to undergo surgery.

- You signed, or will sign, informed consent paperwork regarding this surgical procedure. This outlines the potential surgical risks and complications associated with this specific surgery. You may request a copy of your informed consent paperwork for your own records, and it is always scanned into your medical record and easily available for review.
- Your surgery will take place at Saint Francis Hospital. The date of your surgery will be determined by you and the surgical scheduler. The date of your surgery will be set in advance but the exact time of your surgery and the time you are expected to show up at the hospital can be variable up to a few days before the procedure. You will be contacted by the Saint Francis Hospital preoperative nursing team to determine exactly when you are expected to be at the hospital.
- You will be required to complete a preoperative physical exam with your primary care physician, cardiologist if you have one, or other physicians or providers. The surgical scheduler will determine which appointments you need prior to surgery. These appointments are typically 3 to 4 weeks before surgery and your provider will determine which medicines to stop or continue in the perioperative period.
- The surgery is performed under sedation with you lying on your stomach. Surgery time is approximately 60 minutes. You will have local anesthesia as well so you will not feel any discomfort during the procedure. You will wake up with a series of small incisions made to place the device. These are closed with dissolvable stitches and surgical glue.
- The majority of patients who undergo the surgery are discharged from the hospital the same day. Some patients may require an overnight stay for or effects from anesthesia.
- You will be discharged home from the hospital with oral pain medicine as well as a stool softener to prevent constipation. A fully updated home medication list will be provided to you by the hospital at discharge.
- Your device will be turned on, programmed, and functional in the post-operative recovery area prior to you leaving the hospital. You will have the contact information for the device representative for any

mechanical or programming issues with the device.

- You are expected to take Tylenol (Acetaminophen) and Advil (Ibuprofen) for baseline postoperative pain and discomfort. Stronger narcotic based oral pain medicine is to be used as an adjunct for significant or breakthrough pain. Narcotic pain medication can often cause dizziness, confusion, nausea, and constipation. Again, you will also be discharged home with a stool softener to prevent postoperative constipation. It is typical to be passing gas routinely within 2 to 3 days of surgery or sooner, it may take 3 to 5 days to have a bowel movement after surgery. If you have not had a bowel movement 5 days after surgery please utilize MiraLAX or over-the-counter laxatives and if this is not effective call the urology office.
- You will be provided paperwork at the hospital regarding expected postoperative symptoms including warning signs and parameters to call the hospital or the urology office. For example, if you are experiencing chest pain, severe headache, trouble breathing, dizziness or lightheadedness, severe abdominal pain unresponsive to medication, significant blood in the urine or any other worrisome symptoms please either call the urology office or proceed directly to the emergency room for evaluation.
- You will be seen in the urology office typically 4 weeks after surgery for a routine post-operative appointment. Additional postoperative appointments may be required at the discretion of the patient and your surgeon.
- If you require paperwork or documentation regarding time off of work this paperwork can be completed by the urology office staff. This paperwork does not need to be completed prior to surgery and is often completed after surgery to reflect an accurate timeline for your recovery. It is your responsibility to provide all necessary paperwork to the office staff.
- After this surgery it is important to continue following up with your urologist to track your postoperative recovery and response to the device.
- It is also important to maintain the customer service number for the sacral neuromodulation device company. The company oversees future electronic adjustments or reprogramming of the device.
- The typical battery life for the sacral neuromodulation device is around 12-15 years. You may require future procedures to replace the battery.