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RCH This Week

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEMS

Roanoke-Chowan Hospital

September 11, 2009



Roanoke-Chowan Hospital | 500 S. Academy St. | Ahoskie, NC 27910 | 252-209-3000 | Sue Lassiter, President



Service Boston Scientific SIMSUITE bus stops at RCH

The Boston Scientific SIMSUITE Bus Roanoke-Chowan Hospital Pain Care Center was recently selected to host the Boston Scientific SIMSUITE bus on its national tour.

Three sites were selected in North Carolina: Ahoskie, Charlotte and Winston-Salem. Locations were chosen based on volume and success in treating pain from neuropathy and failed surgery of the spine. The interior of the bus is a simulated operating environment and is used to educate physicians, hospital staff, and members of the community with a first hand look at how spinal cord stimulation is implemented.

According to RCH interventional pain specialist, Dr. Brent Chafin, pain is treated in many ways depending on the cause and severity of pain. "Spinal cord stimulation has been used for more than 20 years to treat neuropathic pain and may be a viable alternative to treat chronic pain unresponsive to other therapies."

The SIMSUITE representatives and Dr. Chafin demonstrated how the Precision Plus SCS System has safely helped more than 30 chronic pain patients at RCH this year. This device intercepts pain at the level of the spinal cord by inserting a tiny generator into the lumbar spine. Patients are able to control their pain with a remote control rather than depending on doctor appointments and pain medicines. Patients can change programs and control the intensity of stimulation based on their pain at the moment. Patients try this system out for a week to see if it controls their pain before they elect to undergo permanent placement of the spinal cord stimulator.

Dr. Chafin is a leader in the state, performing this minimally invasive procedure as an outpatient service at Roanoke-Chowan Hospital.



Dr. Brent Chafin hosted the bus at the Pain Care Center so staff and physicians could see a spinal cord stimulation demonstration first hand.



For more information about 'spinal cord stimulation,' Call the Pain Care Center 209-3360



One patient reports that "it's a little bit like cheating your body; you're going to keep your pain, but your brain is not going to know about it. My pain sensation now feels like bubbles or sparkles, and I am much more energetic than I was before." For more information about spinal cord stimulation for pain management or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Brent Chafin, call the RCH Pain Care Center at 209-3360.