

## INTRODUCTION

# Surgery for pain

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**R**ELIEF of pain is one of the primary aims of medicine. Relief of pain leads to longer life and greater quality of life. However, with the recognition of the opioid crisis in the United States, the inadequacy and adverse effects of pharmacotherapy are clear. Neurosurgical techniques for the treatment of pain have a long and storied history and are gaining increased enthusiasm as an alternative to opioids and other medications. Unfortunately, these techniques have not always been a standard part of neurosurgical training. Many of these procedures and their operative nuances may be unfamiliar to many neurosurgeons.

We are happy to present this collection of high-quality videos of neurosurgical techniques in the treatment of pain to help preserve the knowledge and experience of leaders in the field, to introduce new techniques and surgical refinements, and to serve as an educational resource. This collection represents the breadth of techniques in the neurosurgical treatment of pain, be they microsurgical, percutaneous, ablative, neurophysiologic, and/or neuromodulatory. We are hopeful that these videos, many from pioneers in the field, will be an enduring resource to surgeons wishing to add these procedures to their armamentarium or to further advance their existing techniques.

<https://thejns.org/doi/abs/10.3171/2020.7.FOCVID2048>

## Disclosures

Dr. Schwalb reports grants from Medtronic, StimWave, and Neuros; other from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; and personal fees from NeuroPoint Alliance outside the submitted work.

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