

Patients with failed back surgery syndrome find trusted specialist

Patients with serious back problems sometimes have surgery, but as Barbara New can attest, this type of procedure doesn't always provide long-term pain relief.

"I had back surgery in Boston in 2004," explains Barbara. "I have 14 screws plus rods and bolts in my back, yet I was getting very bad pain running down my legs."

Barbara's postsurgical pain limited her mobility and naturally led her to various doctors in search of relief.

"I use a wheelchair or walker, and I can't go very far without one or the other," she explains, "but what drives me crazy is the pain; it's excruciating."

M. Allam Reheem, MD

"The doctors said I belong in Florida, with this warm weather for my bones. After we moved here, I had steroid shots, but that didn't help. Then I had a spinal cord stimulator implanted in Gainesville, too, but that didn't work either. No matter what they tried to do to take the pain away, my brain wouldn't accept it."

"Dr. Reheem is a wonderful man," says Barbara. "He has a great bedside manner. I've never been to a doctor who really cares like he does."

Susan Cox also lived with excruciating pain in spite of having had back surgery.

"I have rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative disc disease, and osteoarthritis," explains Susan. "When I had surgery, they put screws and bolts and cages in there, but it didn't help."

"The pain was just unbelievable. It was something I couldn't live with."

The right solution

Barbara and Susan found help when they consulted board-certified pain management specialist M. Allam Reheem, MD, of Advanced Pain Management Center. Dr. Reheem devotes his practice to helping people confronted with chronic pain.

"Pain management is one of the most challenging aspects of medicine," explains Dr. Reheem. "When patients are experiencing debilitating chronic pain, they turn to a physician, hoping for immediate relief. I often

work with patients whose conditions can be neither reversed nor completely resolved. Consequently, the goal is to reach a minimum of a 60 to 70 percent reduction of their discomfort. In some cases, greater relief may be attained — even 100 percent resolution."

Some of the most difficult cases are candidates for sophisticated pain-relief techniques such as an implantable device like a medication-dispensing pump. For Susan and Barbara, Dr. Reheem recommended an implantable, computer-regulated morphine pump.

"The intraspinal morphine pump implant delivers low doses of pain-relieving medication such as baclofen or morphine to the space surrounding the spinal cord," describes Dr. Reheem. "Continuous, targeted doses of the medication provide relief without the clouding of consciousness associated with systemic therapies. Side effects such as sedation, euphoria, or addiction do not occur with the pump, and as the patient's needs change, the dosage can be increased or decreased."

"With this technology, we can customize a program for each patient," adds Dr. Reheem. "The pump is checked and refilled approximately every six weeks in a simple procedure that takes just a few minutes."

"It's wonderful"

Barbara's pain relief was not immediate, but she says she's pleased she waited to see what the results would be.

"I first consulted Dr. Reheem in May 2006," recalls Barbara, "and three weeks later, I was in there having the surgery done."

"I'm ecstatic," she emphasizes. "Of course I know I can't expect 100 percent pain relief, but I do feel less pressure than I have in the past. I also can sleep better than I did before; I was on oral medication and didn't want to take it anymore. The pain is not as bad as it was, and I'm sitting most of the time. I couldn't even get off the chair before."

Susan says she's thankful she met Dr. Reheem when she did.

"I think Dr. Reheem is fantastic," she says. "He's so caring and really concerned, always wanting to help, and he has a good personality. I feel very comfortable with him and trust him a lot. I think he's the best pain doctor in this area, and I've been to quite a few others. His staff are all friendly and very accommodating, too. I just think the world of him."

Barbara agrees with Susan that Dr. Reheem combines his skill and knowledge with a compassion not always seen in the medical field.

"Dr. Reheem is a wonderful man," assures Barbara, "and he has a great bedside manner. I have never been to a doctor who really cares like he does. He has so much sympathy for me and wants to help me. My husband, Ken, is a chaplain, and after talking with Dr. Reheem he said to me, *What a great man.*"

Indeed, Ken confirms, "I do think Dr. Reheem is wonderful. I've met a lot of doctors, and I find him down to earth,



Barbara and her husband, Ken, are grateful to Dr. Reheem for relieving her pain.

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a nice, cordial guy, and very smart. He's also really aware of his field and obviously keeps up with it all the time. I think very highly of him. He's on the top of my list. He's been great, and I do see, too, that he's quite prompt about trying to get through with appointments in a timely manner. That means a lot to us.

"Barbara has gone through a tremendous amount, and she's done marvelously as far as having some freedom from pain. There were nights when she would just cry herself to sleep. The pain pump has eased that, and I hold out high hopes for it. We finally hit something that actually works, and it's just wonderful to have a doctor who really knows what he's doing. I can't say enough about him." **FHCN—Michael J. Sabno**

Effective pain relief ...

can be a phone call away. Dr. Reheem welcomes questions regarding the management of chronic pain. For information or a consultation, please call **(813) 643-6900**. His office is located at **514 Eichenfeld Dr.** in Brandon.



M. Allam Reheem, MD, is board certified in anesthesiology and pain management. After graduating from Ain Shams University, School of Medicine in Cairo, Egypt, he underwent diversified surgical training including orthopedic and general surgery. He completed his anesthesiology training at New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY, following which he joined the Pain Institute of Tampa and Brandon Pain Management Center. He is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiology, American Pain Society, American Academy of Pain Medicine, and American Neuromodulation Society.

YES! Please send me additional information about pain management
 Please contact me to schedule an appointment with Dr. Reheem

Name _____

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