

Study participant: E-STAND

I am a 28 year old male, t4 paraplegic. I was injured in a skydiving accident in Florida in 2014. My experience with the ESTAND trial has been a very positive one. The day after my surgery, I was able to move my legs for the first time in over 3 years. Although I do not have enough control to stand or walk, the epidural stimulator allows me to exercise muscles I otherwise would not be able to move and therefore prevents further muscle atrophy which improves my overall well being and health.

Another major benefit for me has been spasticity reduction. Increased spasticity makes it more difficult to transfer to and from my wheelchair without falling, and it also has a negative effect on bowel and bladder function which frequently leads to recurring Urinary Tract Infections. Before the implant I needed to take pills daily to reduce spasticity, to reduce bladder pain and to improve my digestion. Since starting the trial, I have no longer needed to take any of those medications.

ESTAND has improved my day to day quality of life in many ways that are life changing for me.

Study Participant's Spouse: E-STAND

My husband is fortunate enough to be participating in a spinal cord stimulator trial. He is a T-9 injury. Since he has had the stimulator the benefits have been substantial. First the reduction of pain before the stimulator he was up for about ten hours a day eight working and two hours driving and after that he came home and sat because he was in so much pain. Since the stimulator he is now working 8 hours in the office and then another 8 hours on the road. Huge improvement. Besides that with the stimulator he can now do his own bowel program unassisted, he has more core strength and can now bend over in his chair and pick things up. He also has better temperature control before if he got cold he would have to sit in front of a heat source for an hour to get his body temperature back to bearable now he turns the stimulator on and in 15 minutes his circulation returns to normal. This has been a huge benefit since he likes the outdoors. He has movement of both legs which has developed more muscle and over all better circulation.