



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH PAIN MANAGEMENT

BY BRENNAN HALLOCK

History is rich with stories of family legacies stretching generations, as well as those who have broken out of these legacies and forged new paths. Both demand our respect and attention, as they are stories of commitment to dreams and those who fight for them. Dwayne Jones, MD, has found a way to honor and continue his family legacy while clearing his own trail as well.

Medicine has been in Dr. Jones's family for several generations. His maternal grandfather, who passed away before Dr. Jones was born, lived an inspiring life. He worked his way through medical school here in Kansas City, finished first in his class, and practiced medicine despite the racism of the early 20th century preventing him from gaining hospital admission privileges. Dr. Jones's father continued the legacy by also practicing medicine, working in Kansas City for 50 years. Dr. Jones' older brother even took up medicine by becoming an ER doctor.

All these influences inspired Dr. Jones to devote his life to the practice of medicine. Instead of taking the same path as his father, though, and going into general surgery, he decided to set out on a new course and enter the field of pain management.

"I enjoy the blend of procedural intervention, patient contact, as well as the ability to help people experiencing pain," he explains. "I feel this is a great way to make a positive difference in many lives."

The field of pain management focuses on easing the suffering of patients and helping them improve their overall quality of life. Some assume pain management means prescribing drugs that take away your pain, such as epidural blocks or narcotics. Instead, it actually focuses more on the management of chronic pain and helping people who suffer from it. "My treatment philosophy," Dr. Jones says, "is to seek to help the patient experiencing limitations from a chronic pain condition regain function both from a physical and psychological perspective so he or she can again participate in that which affords him or her most enjoyment."

Dr. Jones is also interested in moving the field forward by finding the best technology available for his patients. One of these new and innovative approaches is the spinal cord stimulator implant. This technology uses electrical impulses to relieve pain. These electrical impulses intercept pain signals being sent to the brain. A "lead" of insulated wire is inserted through an epidural needle into the spine, where electrical pulses are emitted that block the pain signals.

Charles Moore is one of Dr. Jones's patients who received the spinal cord stimulator implant. He says he spoke with a couple other surgeons about the chronic pain in his back. They recommended he receive about 20 pins and rods. Unsatisfied with that solution, he spoke with Dr. Jones, who recommended he try the spinal cord stimulator implant.

Now, he can't say enough good things about the procedure. Before he received the implant, his pain was unbearable. "When I saw Dr. Jones, I could hardly walk or sleep," he shares. "I was getting about two hours of sleep per night. So far, the spinal cord stimulator has been great. When I turn on my stimulator, the pain goes away. It got my pain down from a 10 to a four."

Moore also appreciates Dr. Jones' personable and thorough approach. "Dr. Jones was very informative by walking me through the process," he says. "He is a great man. He explains everything, and he told me all my options. The ability he has to work with people is wonderful."

Doctor Jones is spoken of highly by his patients and employees for both his forward-thinking approach and his caring attitude. As an individual who grew up in a family of medical professionals, his history helped lead him to where he is now. But, in addition to his family history, his desire to find the best for his patients and forge his own path has led him to be a respected doctor and individual. If you or anyone you know are in need of pain management services, visit dejonessmd.com or call 816.268.6395.