



## YOU MIGHT ALSO EXPERIENCE THESE SYMPTOMS: STIFFNESS, SPASMS, PAIN, AND WEAKNESS. FORTUNATELY, YOU HAVE OPTIONS.

Stroke is one of the most prevalent conditions, with **6.5 million** people having experienced one in the US. Of those stroke sufferers, an estimated **1.5 (23%)** have also experienced spasticity<sup>5</sup>; most often within 12 months after the stroke<sup>3</sup>.

However, everyone is different and you may experience these symptoms<sup>1,2</sup> shortly following your stroke or years after.



### **STIFFNESS**

Tightness or flexing of the muscles which may make it more difficult to move or perform daily activities.



### **SPASMS**

When your muscle flexes suddenly, it can cause a part of your body to jerk. This is called a spasm. Spasms happen most often in your arms, legs, hands, feet, and torso.



### **PAIN**

Stiffness and spasms can make your muscles hurt. Pain can also occur when your symptoms force you to sit or sleep in different positions.



### **WEAKNESS**

Weakness, fatigue, and paralysis can lead to problems with balance or coordination, making it difficult to perform daily activities.

**YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THIS AND YOU HAVE OPTIONS.**



**MEET  
MARY**

LEARN ABOUT HER  
SUCCESS ON THE  
REVERSE SIDE

# A Real Patient Experience with Spasticity Related to a **STROKE**

**MARY\*, 72**



## **BEGINNING DIAGNOSIS**

Mary is a 72-year-old woman who suffered a stroke that affected her right upper and lower extremities. Along with weakness and fatigue, Mary developed significant spasticity, experiencing extreme tightness on her right side that resulted in poor balance. These symptoms interfered dramatically with her daily activities, like bathing, dressing and brushing her teeth. Not to mention, it affected her mobility, as she was in a wheelchair, making her transfers and ambulation difficult to achieve.

Her primary care physician referred her to a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician that prescribed oral medications including oral baclofen. When the symptoms persisted, she and her doctor agreed that Intrathecal Baclofen (ITB) Therapy might be the right choice, and she completed the trial screening to see how her body would respond.

## **MODIFIED THERAPY RESOLUTION**

The trial results were encouraging, reducing Mary's spasticity significantly, and she completed the ITB implant procedure. Mary described that prior to ITB Therapy, she

felt handicapped—any pressure on the right side would trigger her spasticity.

Since having the pump, however, she no longer uses a wheelchair and has been able to ambulate with a cane. She's also able to take walks in the park with her family and travel, feeling that she has truly gotten her life back.

**Talk to your doctor about management options for spasticity related to a stroke.**

\*Patient name has been changed to protect their privacy.

### **SOURCES**

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