Old Electrical-Stimulus Pain Treatment Resurrected

In the face of concerns about opioid use, “a 50-year-old technology that uses bursts of electricity to treat pain might finally catch on as doctors hunt for alternatives to opioids.” The treatment, called neuromodulation, is an implanted device that treats pain through controlled levels of electricity sent into the nervous system.

The device is surgically installed, it can only be used for some types of pain, and it can cost more than $30,000. About 110,000 were sold in the U.S. last year. A New York physician calls it an amazing therapy that not enough people or doctors know about. Made by Abbott, the device has a 10-year battery life and can be controlled by the patient’s smartphone.

“A 50-year-old technology that uses bursts of electricity to treat pain might finally catch on as doctors hunt for alternatives to opioids,” Business Insider (India), Clarrie Feinstein, October 2, 2019: