

# Cellphone powers back pain chip in Taiwan

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This marks a departure from existing [spinal cord](#) stimulators, which are kept going by implanted batteries, making them more cumbersome for patients to use, according to the team.

"We have finished an animal trial for the new device and got good results," said Lin.

The coin-sized chip, the result of six years of research, is equipped with two electrodes which transmit electromagnetic waves to alleviate pain.

"We are looking into human tests soon to confirm the effectiveness of the [chip](#)," Lin said.

Lower-back treatment is the fourth biggest cost to the island's [health insurance](#) system, the state-owned Central News Agency said on its website.

Taiwan had 25.3 million cellphones, or 1.1 cellphones per resident, at the end of October.

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