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COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT BLADDER CONTROL THERAPY DELIVERED BY THE INTERSTIM™ SYSTEMS

Q: What is Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy delivered by the InterStim Systems?

A: This therapy is an implantable device that targets nerves that control your bladder to help it function normally again.

Q: What is the difference between the InterStim X and InterStim Micro Systems?

A: Both are designed to deliver effective symptom relief through sacral neuromodulation. The InterStim X™ system is a recharge-free device, while the InterStim™ Micro system is rechargeable.

Q: How do the InterStim Systems Work?

A: The systems restore bladder function by gently stimulating the sacral nerves. *

Q: Why do they treat the sacral nerves?

A: Doctors believe that bladder control problems are caused by miscommunication between the brain and the sacral nerves, which are located in the lower back and control the bladder.

Q: What are the benefits of this therapy?

A: You may experience fewer trips to the bathroom, fewer accidents, more confidence, and more freedom.

Q: What are the potential side effects or complications?

A: Choosing to have an InterStim™ system implanted has risks similar to any surgical procedure, including swelling, bruising, bleeding, and infection. Talk with your doctor about ways to minimize these risks.

Q: Will this therapy cure my condition?

A: No. It can be effective, but it's not a cure. If the neurostimulator is turned off or removed, symptoms can return. You can try it before you decide, and it's reversible if you change your mind later.

Q: How long does the relief last?

A: Everyone's experience of relief is different. In a clinical study, this therapy significantly reduced symptoms of overactive bladder (OAB) and non-obstructive urinary retention in people treated for five years.

Q: What does stimulation feel like?

A: Most people describe it as a slight pulling, tingling, or fluttering sensation in the pelvic area. The stimulation is always adjustable and should not be painful.

Q: Why is this therapy different from other options?

A: The InterStim™ systems deliver sacral neuromodulation (SNM) therapy that has been shown to be more effective than medications for OAB. Unlike injections, this therapy doesn't require self-catheterization or repeated treatment visits.

Q: Will I be able to get an MRI with the implantable device?

A: Yes, you can have a full-body MRI scan under certain conditions. Your clinician can provide more details about these conditions, as well as safety information.

Q: Will Insurance cover the costs?

A: Medicare and many private insurance companies cover this therapy. Talk to your doctor to learn more about your insurance coverage.

*This therapy is not intended for people with urinary blockage.