

What is Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy?

Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy (Sacral Neuromodulation), delivered by the InterStim® System, is an effective, long-term treatment that is clinically proven to:

- significantly improve quality of life
- relieve symptoms when other treatments fail.

Oftentimes, failed therapies may not have addressed the miscommunication between the bladder and the brain that could be causing your symptoms. Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy uses a device that provides gentle electrical stimulation to help correct this communication problem.

The InterStim System has been FDA-approved since 1997 for urge incontinence and since 1999 for urinary retention and urgency-frequency. It's not intended for patients with a urinary blockage.

Medicare and many other private insurance companies cover Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy.

How does it work?

The InterStim System, works with the sacral nerves, located near the tailbone. The sacral nerves control the bladder and muscles related to urinary function.

It is believed that one possible cause of overactive bladder is miscommunication between the brain and the sacral nerves; when the brain and sacral nerves don't communicate correctly, the nerves will not tell the bladder to function correctly, which can cause bladder control problems.

The InterStim System provides gentle electrical stimulation of the sacral nerves and reduces the signals to the nervous system which may be causing bladder control symptoms such as leaks, the sudden urge to go, or going too often.

How effective is it?

In a long-term clinical study, it was found that 59 percent of patients with urge incontinence who received the InterStim System and completed follow-up with their doctors had at least 50 percent fewer leaks per day when compared to the number of leaks before therapy.

Individual results may vary and that not every patient who receives this therapy will receive the same benefits or experience the same adverse events as the patients in the clinical study. In addition to risks related to a surgical procedure, complications from this therapy can occur and may require surgery or cause return of symptoms.

How can I find out if this therapy will work for me?

During an evaluation, you'll have the opportunity to test Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy without making a long-term commitment. The evaluation generally lasts several days. Before and during the evaluation, you'll be asked to track your symptoms to help determine how well Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy works for you.

If you experience a significant reduction in your bladder control symptoms, you can decide whether or not to go on to long-term Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy.

Ask Your Doctor

Talk with your doctor about your individual situation to find out if Medtronic Bladder Control Therapy may be right for you.