



FIELD TRIAL OF A PERIPHERAL TRIGEMINAL NERVE STIMULATOR

YOUR SURGERY

Trigeminal neurostimulation involves sending mild electrical impulses to the nerve fibres in your face. The impulses decrease the number of pain signals sent by the nerve fibres to the brain.

The pain is replaced by a tingling or prickling sensation, which reduces its intensity.

During this surgery, an electrode will be inserted under the skin of your face where the affected nerve is located. It is connected to an external device that generates an electric current to reduce your pain. You will be given a local anesthesia so that the electrode can be inserted painlessly. If necessary, you can be given medication to help you relax.

A nurse practitioner will help you use your remote control and adjust your treatment. The procedure is performed as day surgery either in a clinic or operating room; no hospitalization is required (unless otherwise advised by the specialist physician).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Certain factors can alter the stimulation during the neurostimulation trial.

Keep your remote control within reach at all times.

DURATION

The trial period lasts approximately 7 days. You may return home the same day as the surgery, unless otherwise advised by your doctor.

The neurostimulation trial will show whether the treatment reduces your pain, improves the quality of your sleep, increases the number of activities you can engage in, and makes it easier for you to do your daily activities.

The trial period allows you to try out neurostimulation before considering a permanent neurostimulator implant.

You will be given a follow-up appointment a few days after the start of the trial to adjust your treatment and determine if neurostimulation is right for you.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Follow the instructions you received from your doctor and neuromodulation nurse. Take your medication as directed.
- Wash your face with a washcloth. Refrain from washing your hair to keep the surgery site clean and dry.
- If you have a dressing, you can reinforce it if necessary. If it is soaked and needs to be changed, make an appointment with the neuromodulation clinic or with your local CLSC. As a last resort, you can go to the emergency room to have your dressing changed (evenings, nights, or weekends).
- Turn off your neurostimulator when driving, but you can leave it on if you are a passenger.
- Avoid twisting, extending, rotating, or stretching your neck and head during the trial period. Afterwards, you can carefully do these movements but gradually.
- Turn off your neurostimulator if you go through a security gate at the entrance to a business. Walk through the middle of the gate with a normal gait. Stay as far away from the walls of the gate as possible and do not linger near them. Once you have cleared the gate, turn your neurostimulator back on.
- Check the batteries of your remote control regularly (icon on the remote-control screen). If necessary, replace the batteries with good-quality, non-rechargeable ones.
- If the stimulation becomes uncomfortable or if it is not felt in the right place, use the remote control to turn your external neurostimulator off and notify the neuromodulation clinic.
- Keep your remote control and external device away from water sources (such as sinks and toilets) to prevent damage.
- Bring the remote control and external device to your medical appointments.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR

Consult a doctor if you have the following symptoms:

- Changes to your surgical wound: redness, pain, heat, swelling, opening of the wound despite sutures, foul odour, or purulent discharge from a dressing.
- Accidental removal of the electrode.
- Chills and fever (over 38.5 °C or 101.3 °F).
- More intense or unusual pain

ANY QUESTIONS?

In the case of emergencies, go to the Fleurimont Hospital emergency room. If your health status does not permit you to go there, go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

NEUROMODULATION CLINIC

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
819-346-1110, ext. 13954

CLSC IN YOUR AREA OR INFO-SANTÉ 811

Evenings, nights, and weekends

MEDTRONIC CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-888-660-4616 or medtronic.com

REFERENCES

ON THE WEB:

INESSS (inesss.qc.ca)

Traitement de la douleur chronique non cancéreuse, neurostimulateurs médullaires et pompes intrathécales, June 2013

MEDTRONIC (MEDTRONIC.COM)

Patient information about neurostimulation, 2009, or <https://www.medtronic.com/ca-fr/votresante/traitements-therapies/pompe-a-medicamentdouleur-chronique/neurostimulateurs-qu-est-ce-quec-est.html>

CHECKLIST

Date of my appointment: _____

If you need to cancel your appointment, please notify the staff at 819-346-1110, ext. 13954.

Location: Fleurimont Hospital 3001, 12nd Avenue North, Sherbrooke

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