

STOMACH STIMULATOR FOR GASTROPARESIS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Where can I get more information on gastroparesis?
 - <http://www.g-pact.org/> (Gastroparesis patient support organization)
 - <http://www.medtronic.com/patients/gastroparesis/index.htm> (Information on the stomach electrical stimulator)
 - <http://digestive.niddk.nih.gov/ddiseases/pubs/gastroparesis/> (Information from the National Institutes of Health)

2. Who do I call and what do I do when I get sick?

Rather than go to the E.R., you can call our office to talk to me. We can send home health to your house to give you fluids and medicine through an I.V. for a short time. During nighttime and weekend hours, let the on-call doctor know if you already have home health service available.

3. Are there other people with gastroparesis I can talk to?

Gastroparesis support groups are available – you can locate them through the websites listed above.

4. What happens if insurance denies your Gastric Stimulator?

We will appeal the denial by sending all your medical information relevant to your gastroparesis to an individual at Medtronic who will handle the appeal for us. You should contact this person directly to get an update.

5. How long does it take for the stimulator to work?

There is no definite answer to this; it is different for everyone. But, it may take up to three months to see improvement.

6. Will the stimulator work for me?

The stimulator is not approved at this time and is still being studied. Therefore, we cannot tell you for certain whether or not the stimulator will work for you. You must agree to be part of a clinical trial in order to receive the device. You must come to see us on a regular basis to fine tune the device to improve your symptoms.

7. How long will the stimulator work?

There is no definite length of time that the stimulator will last. This will depend on the setting of the device. Surgery is required to replace the battery in 3 to 10 years. Higher the setting, the battery will run out faster.

8. Do I have to stay away from having an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) after stomach stimulator surgery?

YES. After you have a stomach stimulator, you can NOT have a MRI because your stimulator is metal device.