PATIENT STORIES

Paul's story

Having successfully managed his gastroparesis with Enterra™ Therapy for 20 years, Paul feels certain that gastric electrical stimulation has made an enormous difference in his life.

Paul, Enterra Therapy patient, United Kingdom

Start of symptoms

Like many people, Paul's gastroparesis symptoms came out of nowhere. One day, he simply started to feel very ill—overwhelmed by nausea and vomiting.

When his symptoms never really stopped, everyday life became difficult for Paul. Even being with friends or going out to eat became traumatic.

Although it's been more than twenty years since Paul struggled with such severe symptoms, he vividly recalls the shame and embarrassment of having to vomit at restaurants and realizing that others assumed he was intoxicated.

Eventually, Paul subsisted on a cup of tea and a single biscuit a day. At one point, a physician told Paul that he had three years to live. In an attempt to disrupt the malnutrition that his nausea and vomiting symptoms caused, he received a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube to eat. He tried for years to find answers—and relief—for his symptoms, but nothing helped.

Discovering Enterra Therapy

Despite the difficulty of living with severe gastroparesis, Paul never gave up hope.

In 2003, he sought out a referral to a gastroenterologist in the United Kingdom who implants the Enterra Therapy System.

When his new gastroenterologist recognized that Paul was a candidate for Enterra Therapy, and after discussing the risks and benefits of Enterra Therapy, Paul was excited at the possibility of a new treatment that could offer relief for his nausea and vomiting.

"I'm just an average guy, but I hope my story can help others like me."

Life with Enterra Therapy

Now, twenty years after receiving his Enterra Therapy System, Paul says his life has certainly changed for the better. He works full-time in hospital security, and finds joy in spending time with his two teenage daughters.

Although he still lives with gastroparesis, his symptoms are well under control. He visits his gastroenterologist about every eight weeks to ensure that he's getting the right level of stimulation.

Because of his experience, he understands how little some doctors know about the disease—and how it can take away from patients' everyday lives. Paul is a passionate advocate for other people who live with gastroparesis.

Today, Paul looks back and feels thankful for the positive difference that Enterra Therapy has made in his life, and hopes that his story can help give others strength.

Paul's experience is unique to him and individual results may vary.

Important Safety Information

Enterra Therapy for treatment of chronic, resistant to medication nausea and vomiting associated with gastroparesis caused by diabetes or an unknown origin in patients aged 18 to 70 years: patients should always discuss potential risks and benefits of the device with their physician.

Indications for Use: The Enterra Therapy System for gastric electrical stimulation is indicated for use in the treatment of chronic, intractable (drug refractory) nausea and vomiting associated with gastroparesis caused by diabetes or an unknown origin in patients aged 18 to 70 years.

Contraindications: The Enterra Therapy System is not intended for patients whom the physician determines are not candidates for surgical procedures and/or anesthesia due to physical or mental health conditions. You cannot have diathermy (deep heat treatment from electromagnetic energy) if you have an Enterra device. Patients with Enterra should not have magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Warnings/Precautions/Adverse Events: This system has not been evaluated for pregnant women, for use in patients under the age of 18, or patients over the age of 70. The system may be affected by or adversely affect cardiac devices. Strong sources of electromagnetic interference (EMI) such as from electrocautery, defibrillation/cardioversion, therapeutic ultrasound, radiofrequency (RF)/microwave ablation, or MRI, can result in serious injury, system damage, or operational changes to the system. EMI, postural changes, or other activities may cause shocking or jolting sensations. Patients on anticoagulation therapy may be at a greater risk for post-operative complications. The use of non-Medtronic components with this system may result in damage to Medtronic components, loss of therapy, or patient injury. There is the possibility of an allergic or immune system response to the implanted materials. When possible, a physician is to identify and treat any infections prior to surgery. Infections at the implant site almost always require the surgical removal of the implanted system. The lead can become entangled with the bowel or perforate your stomach and cause life-threatening blockage or infections that require immediate medical attention and may require surgery. Patients should avoid activities that may put undue stress on the implanted system components (activities that include sudden, excessive, or repetitive bending, twisting, bouncing, or stretching that can cause component fracture or dislodgement). Adverse events related to the therapy, device, or procedure can include: infection, pain at the surgery site, device components may wear through the skin, bruising at the neurostimulator site, bleeding, loss of therapeutic effect, undesirable change in stimulation (described as a jolting, shocking, or burning sensation), gastrointestinal symptoms and gastrointestinal complications (in that the lead may perforate your stomach or device components may become entangled with or obstruct other internal organs, requiring surgery). The system could stop because of battery depletion or mechanical or electrical problems. Any of these situations may require additional surgery or cause your symptoms to return.

Humanitarian Device: Authorized by Federal law for use in the treatment of chronic intractable (drug refractory) nausea and vomiting secondary to gastroparesis of diabetic or idiopathic etiology in patients aged 18 to 70 years. The effectiveness of this device for this use has not been demonstrated.

For further information, please contact Enterra Medical at info@enterramedical.com.
USA Rx only.

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