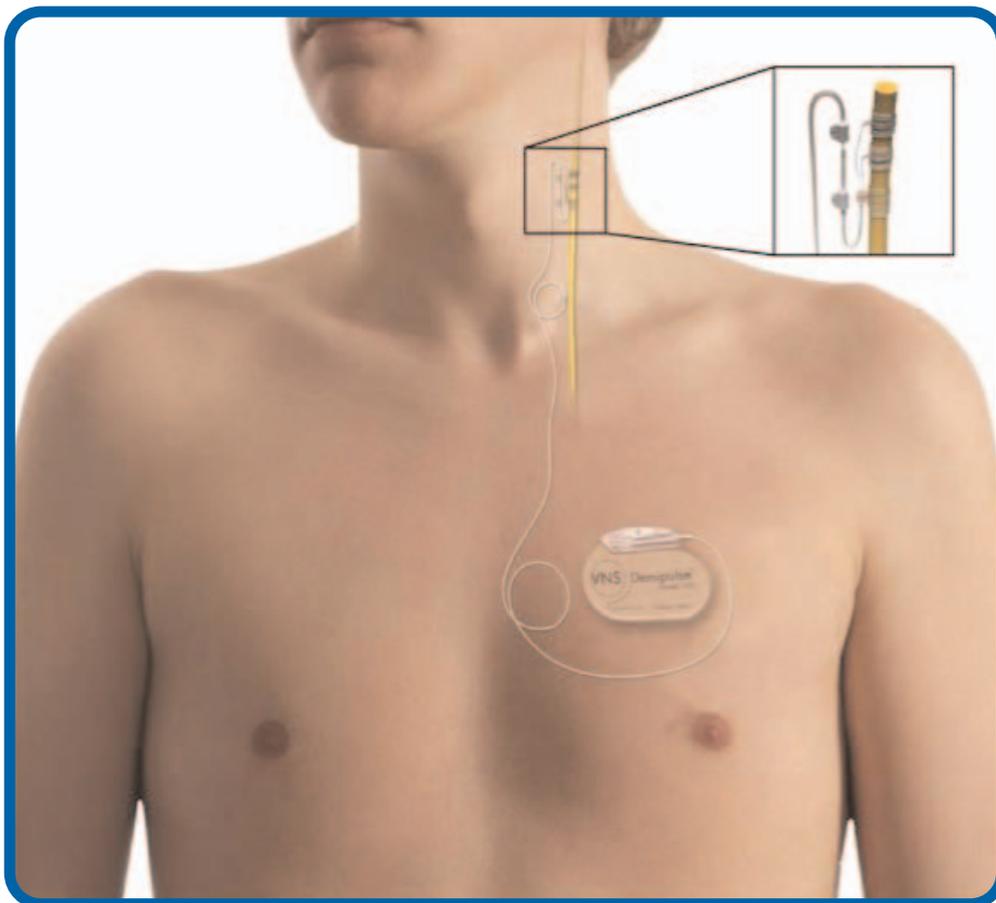


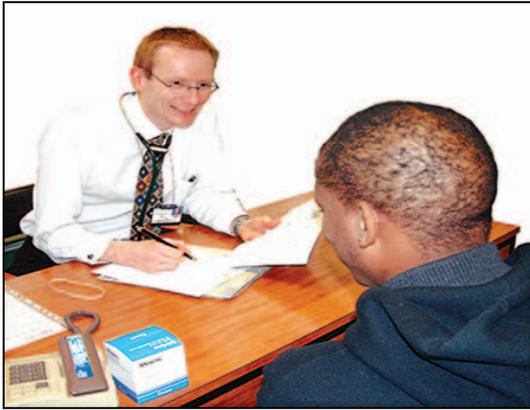
What is a vagus nerve stimulator?



Information for patients Neurology



Easy Read



Why have I been given this booklet?

You and your doctor have decided to try Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) Therapy to help control your epilepsy.

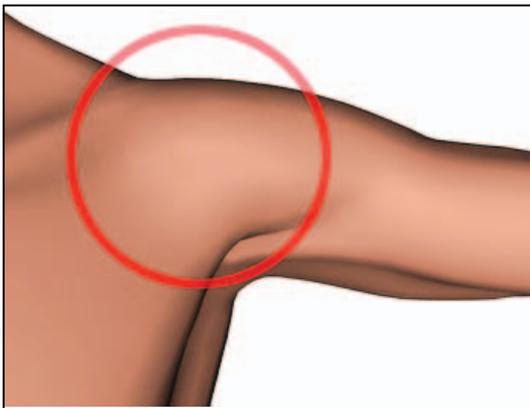
This booklet will tell you about Vagus Nerve Stimulation.



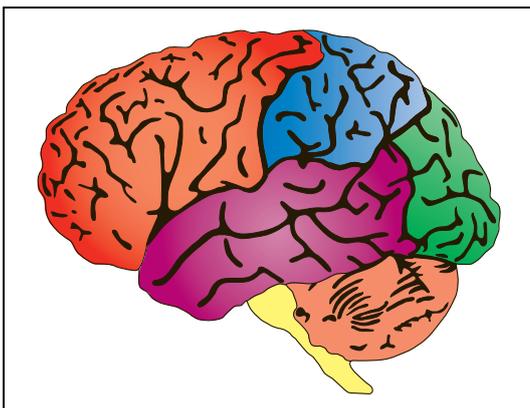
What is Vagus Nerve Stimulation?

The Vagus Nerve Stimulator is a small machine which can help to control your epilepsy.

It can help to reduce the amount of seizures and the length of time they last.



This machine is placed under the skin near your armpit in a small operation.



How does it work?

The VNS sends small electrical signals to the brain.

This helps to block other signals to the brain which affect your epilepsy.



Will I need an operation?

You will need a small operation to put the VNS under your skin.

You may need to stay in hospital for 1 or 2 nights.



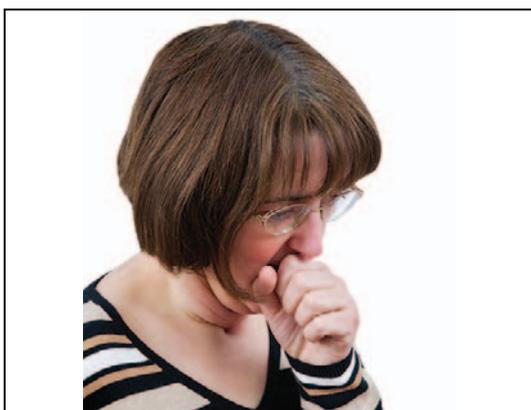
How will this help me?

The VNS may stop your seizures or cut down the number that you have.



How might it affect me?

Some people find that the operation makes them feel a bit poorly.



This could include:

- Feeling sick
- A cough
- Having a sore throat or croaky voice

This doesn't usually last very long, just 2 or 3 days.



Could anything go wrong?

A small number of people may get an infection. This may make your wound feel sore for a while.

You may need to stay in hospital for a bit longer until you are better.



Will I need to keep taking my medicine?

You will need to keep taking your epilepsy medicine after the operation.

The VNS is extra to your medicine.



What happens after the operation?

The VNS nurse will show you how the VNS works. You will be given a special magnet which will help you to control your VNS. The magnet will help to reduce or shorten your seizures.



Will I need to come back to hospital?

You will come to see the VNS nurses every few weeks at first. Later on, you will see them every couple of months.



Do I need to tell anyone I have a VNS?

If you go into hospital it is important that you tell them you have a VNS.



Having a VNS means that you will not be able to have an MRI scan. The hospital doctors and nurses will need to know this.



A magnet that we give you can be passed over the implant to stop, reduce or shorten your seizures.

You will need to come to the hospital for further checks.



VNS Nurses

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