

J02 Bladder Pacemaker

January 2009

Intro: It's not something many people like to talk about, but urinary incontinence is a big issue. UP to 30% of all women suffer from it, and those who do know how embarrassing having an accident can be. Medications may work for some women, but for those who don't find relief with meds, there is another option. An implant that acts like a pacemaker for your bladder. More from Mayo Clinic.

Video

Total running time 1:24

CG :12 to 19

Sharon Crow

Has bladder problem

CG :20 to :31

Standup

Vivien Williams

Reporting

Audio

“BRING A ROUND TABLE IN...”

THE HOTEL BUSINESS KEEPS
SHARON CROW HOPPING.

“IT'S ALWAYS THIS BUSY.”

SO YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW
INCONVENIENT IT WOULD BE TO
HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT LEAKING
URINE DURING THE WORK DAY.

“IT'S EMBARRASSING, AND IT
WOULDN'T JUST BE THAT I'D MESS
MY CLOTHES UP. THERE WOULD
BE THIS LITTLE TRAIL.”

YOU SEE, SHARON HAS WHAT'S
CALLED BLADDER RETENTION
THAT CAUSES INCONTINENCE.
URINE BUILDS UP IN HER BLADDER

BECAUSE THE NERVES WERE
DAMAGED DURING A SURGERY 15
YEARS AGO. SHE CAN'T FEEL
WHEN SHE HAS TO GO UNTIL IT'S
TOO LATE.

“IT WAS STIFLING MY LIFESTYLE
AND MAKING ME STRESSED OUT.”
FRUSTRATED, SHE WENT TO MAYO
CLINIC TO SEE DR. JEFFREY
CORNELLA.

“THE BEST OPTION FOR HER WAS
SOMETHING THAT WE CALL
NEURO-MODULATION.”
BASICALLY, IT'S A PACE MAKER
FOR THE BLADDER. TO IMPLANT
THE DEVICE DR. CORNELLA
PLACES IT NEAR THE PELVIC
BONE. HE THEN RUNS A WIRE
LEAD TO THE SACRUM WHERE THE
BLADDER NERVES ARE LOCATED.
WHEN TURNED ON, ELECTRONIC
PULSES STIMULATE THE NERVES
AND ALLOW THE BLADDER TO

:CG to 1:01 to 1:10
Jeffrey Cornella, M.D.
Mayo Clinic

WORK MORE NORMALLY.

“THERE HAVE BEEN EXAMPLES OF PATIENTS WHO WE HAVE OPERATED ON WHO HAVE NOT VOIDED FOR YEARS, AND WITHIN A DAY THEY WILL BE ABLE TO EMPTY THEIR BLADDER AFTER PLACING A STIMULATING DEVICE.”

“I DON’T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ACCIDENTS ANYMORE.”

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS, SHARON SAYS SHE FEELS NORMAL.

“NORMAL, THAT’S THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU, JUST NORMAL.”

FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I’M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Dr. Cornella says this device has been FDA approved for use for three types of incontinence: urinary frequency or urgency, urgency incontinence, and retention.

Studies show the device works for about 70% of patients. So to be sure it will work, Dr. Cornella places a temporary device in for two weeks for a test run before implanting the permanent device.

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