

W *falany & hulse* WOMEN'S CENTER

Offering patients innovative therapy to treat bladder control problems.

Our office is now offering an important treatment option for individuals suffering from bladder control problems who have not had success with common treatments such as medication. As many as 33 million Americans suffer from bladder control problems and, as a result, often struggle with simple, everyday activities. Medtronic's [InterStim](#)[®] Therapy provides another treatment option for addressing symptoms, such as leaking, urgency and frequency, allowing individuals to experience an improved quality of life.

A diagnosis of overactive bladder or urinary retention often represents a significant impairment in quality of life, and many patients experience symptoms for a long time before they are comfortable discussing them with a doctor. [InterStim](#) Therapy will extend hope to urinary patients who were previously told their bladder control problem was not treatable or had not had success with other interventions, such as drug therapy, fluid and diet changes or pelvic floor exercises.

[InterStim](#) Therapy, which is similar to a pacemaker for the bladder, uses mild electrical pulses to target the communication problem that exists between the sacral nerves (near the tailbone that control the bladder) and the brain to tell the bladder to work correctly.

Before [InterStim](#) Therapy, patients who do not respond to drug therapy were limited mainly to irreversible bladder surgery or a lifetime of absorbent pads. [InterStim](#) Therapy has helped tens of thousands of patients overcome embarrassing leaking accidents, the overwhelming need to be close to a bathroom at all times and constant preoccupation with their bladders.

[InterStim](#) Therapy provides another treatment option for addressing overactive bladder symptoms, such as leaking, urgency and frequency, allowing some individuals to experience relief from their symptoms. In addition to risks related to a medical procedure, complications from this therapy can include pain, infection, sensation of electrical shock, device problems, undesirable change in voiding function, and lead migration, among others.

[InterStim](#) Therapy for Urinary Control treats urinary retention (inability to completely empty the bladder) and the symptoms of overactive bladder, including urinary urge incontinence (leakage) and significant symptoms of urgency-frequency. It should be used after you have tried other treatments such as medications and behavioral therapy and they have not worked, or you could not tolerate them.

You should have a successful trial assessment before receiving [InterStim](#) Therapy. You cannot have diathermy (deep heat treatment from electromagnetic energy) if you have an [InterStim](#) device.

[InterStim](#) Therapy is not intended for patients with a urinary blockage. Safety and effectiveness have not been established for pregnancy and delivery; patients under the age of 16; or for patients with neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis.

In addition to risks related to surgery, complications can include pain at the implant sites, new pain, infection, lead (thin wire) movement/migration, device problems, interactions with certain other devices or diagnostic equipment, undesirable changes in urinary or bowel function, and uncomfortable stimulation (sometimes described as a jolting or shocking feeling).