

EAR, NOSE & THROAT CONSULTANTS OF NEVADA

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INSPIRE

Your doctor has recommended the Inspire device, which stimulates the nerve to the tongue known as the hypoglossal nerve, to treat your sleep apnea. The procedure involves making two incisions around two inches long, one in the upper neck and the other in the upper chest, usually on the right side. The Inspire device is an implant placed on the upper chest wall with two attached leads connected by small wires. The stimulator lead wire is tunneled under the skin to the upper neck and a small cuff is placed around the hypoglossal nerve to stimulate it during sleep to prevent your tongue from obstructing during sleep. The sensor wire is placed in a pocket between the ribs in the upper chest. During sleep, when you take a breath, the device senses your breathing and then provides a small stimulation to the tongue nerve to increase muscle tone so it does not obstruct the airway causing obstructive sleep apnea.

The procedure is done under general anesthesia, usually takes around an hour, and most patients can be discharged home the same day.

Patients who benefit from the Inspire are those who have moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea, are not overweight, and cannot tolerate or are unwilling to use CPAP. The device is then activated around one month after surgery.

Complications are rare, but they do occur.

Infection is uncommon, but if it occurs, may necessitate removal of the implant.

Bleeding may occur. It is not unusual to have swelling or bruising around the two incisions, but a large accumulation of blood known as a hematoma may need to be drained in the operating room.

Tongue weakness happens in a small amount of patients, and usually resolves in a month or less. On rare occasion it may be longer. Oral steroids may be given afterwards to decrease swelling of the nerve to help the weakness improve sooner.

Pain is usually mild and limited to the incision. Some patients experience some referred pain to the ear that resolves with time.

Implant irritation is uncommon and usually resolves with time and the implant heals in place.

Device failure that would require replacement is very uncommon.

On rare occasion the device does not work as intended or does not improve sleep apnea. The device is tested during surgery to observe the movement of the tongue, but the majority of patients note significant benefit. The sensor lead placed between the ribs may result in rare complications such as pneumothorax (a collapsed lung), fluid around the lung, or breaking and entering the lung cavity.

Northwest Office

7040 Smoke Ranch Road

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Green Valley Office

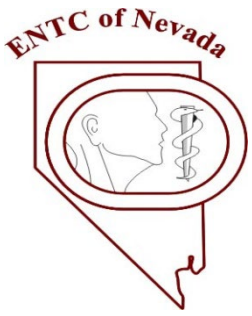
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I CERTIFY that I have read or had read to me the contents of this form. I understand the risks, benefits, alternative, and possible complications involved in this procedure. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions and all of my questions have been answered.

Patient/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Patient Account #: _____

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