PATIENT STORIES

Sadila's Story

After spending years searching for relief from chronic nausea and vomiting, Sadila is living life to the fullest—and advocating for others with gastroparesis.

Sadila, Enterra™ Therapy patient, United Kingdom

Start of symptoms

Just as 21-year-old Sadila was finishing university, she began to experience chronic nausea and vomiting. At first, her doctors thought it was food poisoning. As her symptoms continued, they reasoned that it was stress from year-end exams. But when exams were over and her symptoms worsened, Sadila started a nearly three-year journey to find answers—and relief.

Journey to diagnosis

From the onset of her symptoms, Sadila spent the next two years consumed with travel, doctor appointments, treatment after treatment, and increasing frustration.

She underwent multiple endoscopies, biopsies, ultrasounds, CT scans and x-rays. She consulted a dietician, tried supplements, and took nearly a dozen medications that just didn't work. In many cases, her medications exacerbated symptoms or caused other painful side effects. As time went on, Sadila was tested for several conditions—IBS, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease—but found no real answers or relief.

Having exhausted options with her initial gastroenterologist (GI), Sadila finally sought a second opinion. When transitioning her medical records, she learned that her previous GI believed that Sadila had bulimia and that her symptoms were "in her head."

By this time, Sadila vomited up to 12 times a day, every day, for months on end. She was angry, malnourished, and struggling to engage socially because of her symptoms.

Sadila's new GI suggested a gastric emptying test (GET). Her results showed a severe delay—one of the worst that her GI had ever seen. Finally, Sadila had a diagnosis that explained what she was going through: gastroparesis.

"I'm not putting life on hold anymore."

Discovering Enterra™ Therapy

Diagnosed with idiopathic gastroparesis, Sadila underwent still more treatments—including endoscopic Botox®—but struggled to find relief from her nausea and vomiting.

She continued to lose weight—and hope that things would ever change—when her new GI suggested gastric electrical stimulation via Enterra Therapy, approved by the Food and Drug Administration as a Humanitarian Device. Although Sadila was skeptical, worried, and exhausted by so many failed treatments, she began the process of advocating to receive an Enterra System.

Sadila received the Enterra Therapy implant in December of 2013. After almost three years, she finally felt some relief from her nausea and vomiting symptoms.

Life with Enterra Therapy

Since receiving her Enterra System nearly a decade ago, Sadila achieved her goal of becoming a psychotherapist, and has even advanced to managing a team of psychotherapists and nurses—a role that she feels would have been impossible before.

She's put on weight and experiences only a handful of vomiting episodes per year. Altogether, Sadila says she's grateful for Enterra Therapy and feels like her life is back on track.

As for the GI who diagnosed Sadila with bulimia and felt her symptoms were psychosomatic: Sadila has since followed up with her and educated her about gastroparesis. Sadila says her former GI was surprised to learn about the condition, and apologized for misdiagnosing Sadila. Now, the GI treats several patients with gastroparesis—and refers them to Sadila for support.

Sadila's experience is unique to her 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.

www.enterramedical.com

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