

Comparison of Advanced Therapies for Overactive Bladder

Therapy	InterStim®	Botox®
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacemaker for bladder/bowel implanted into the buttocks with a small lead near the tailbone – not the spine • Stimulation from electrical impulses helps to regulate bladder and bowel reflexes that cause urinary and fecal urgency, frequency, and incontinence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturally occurring botulinum toxin has been used for many years to paralyze muscles in spasm (such as hand or eye tremors) • Injected through a scope into the bladder, calming bladder muscle spasms
PRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgery center or hospital trial • Takes only days to weeks to work • Normalizes control of the bladder and bowel's natural reflexes • Can be completely reversed at any time by turning off/removing • Good long-term results/benefits • Treats urinary retention • Covered by Medicare and most insurances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be given in office or hospital setting • Works within days, lasts for 6-12 months • Can be effective even when all else has failed • Approved for patients with OAB and neurologic conditions • No patient participation to achieve the benefit • Covered by Medicare and most insurances
CON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRI restrictions • Requires minor surgery to implant • Risk of infection after implant (<3%) • The patient must learn to regulate the device to have the best outcome • May requiring programming visits • Can be damaged with a hard fall • May require reoperation • New battery needed in 3-5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires re-injection every 6-12 months • May cause urinary retention in some requiring catheterization to empty the bladder • Does not help with bowel issues