

Neurosurgery

GammaCore

What is GammaCore?

GammaCore (non-invasive vagus nerve stimulator) is a non-medical treatment for adults who suffer from primary headache conditions such as cluster headache and migraine.

GammaCore is a patient administered treatment which is a portable, convenient, handheld device.

How to use your GammaCore

Prepare

Find the correct treatment location and positioning on the neck to activate the vagus nerve (refer to information pack)

Start

Apply the supplied gel to the stimulation surfaces of the device, turn it on and position it on the neck

Deliver

Adjust the intensity level to what's right for you

Why is GammaCore a good treatment choice for me?

- GammaCore provides a Non-Pharmacological approach as acute and preventative treatment for Episodic and Chronic Cluster Headaches.



Patient Information

- Can be used in conjunction with acute and prophylaxis treatment.
- Provides effective relief in-between receiving injectable preventative treatment (Greater Occipital Nerve Block)
- Reduced risk of side effects as opposed to taking regular abortive treatment.

Patient Experience

- The largest study reference of chronic cluster headache prevention showed significant treatment effects for those patients with Chronic Cluster Headaches
- 50% reduction in the average number of Cluster Headache (CH) attacks per week
- Significant reduction in the use of subcutaneous injection of Sumatriptan and Oxygen therapy
- GammaCore is often well tolerated
- The most common adverse reactions from GammaCore were headache, common cold (nasopharyngitis), dizziness, oropharyngeal pain, and neck pain

Recommended Acute Schedule for Cluster Headache

At the earliest sign of pain:

- Apply the conductive gel before each stimulation
- Start the treatment consisting of three two-minute GammaCore stimulations
- After two minutes GammaCore will beep twice and automatically turn off.
- The device should remain off for ten seconds after each stimulation
- Stimulations can be performed on the same side of the neck, or you can switch sides, if preferred.
- After completing the third stimulation, you should wait three minutes. If the pain remains, you may apply three more two-minute stimulations

Recommended Preventative Schedule for Cluster Headache

Daily:

- Apply the conductive gel before each stimulation
- To conduct two treatments (morning and night) consisting of three two-minute GammaCore stimulations
- After two minutes, GammaCore will beep twice and automatically turn off. The device should remain off for ten seconds after each stimulation
- Stimulations can be administered on the same side of the neck, or you can switch sides, if preferred
- GammaCore can deliver up to 30 stimulations per day

Indication and Important Safety Information

Safety and efficacy of GammaCore have not been evaluated in the following patients:

- Patients with an active implantable medical device, such as a pacemaker, hearing aid implant, or any implanted electronic device
- Patients diagnosed with narrowing of the arteries (carotid atherosclerosis)
- Patients who have had surgery to cut the vagus nerve in the neck (cervical vagotomy)
- Paediatric patients
- Pregnant women
- Patients with clinically significant hypertension, hypotension, bradycardia, or tachycardia

Patients should not use GammaCore if they:

- Have a metallic device such as a stent, bone plate, or bone screw implanted at or near their neck
- Are using another device at the same time (e.g. TENS Unit, muscle stimulator) or any portable electronic device (e.g. mobile phone)

Patient Information

Precautions: Only Use the electrode gel that is provided with this device.

Contact Details:

If you have any technical issues please contact

Clinical issues

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 7419 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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