

Frequently Asked Questions by Clinicians

What is SENSUS?

SENSUS is a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator intended to be used for symptomatic relief and management of chronic intractable pain in the lower extremities.

How does it work?

It stimulates sensory nerves, which leads to the release of endogenous opioids that act through the delta opioid receptor to reduce pain signal transmission through the CNS. For more details, see “Transcutaneous Nerve Stimulation Mechanisms of Action”, available at www.SENSUSRx.com.

Is it a “TENS” device?

Yes, SENSUS is a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator.

How does SENSUS compare to traditional TENS devices?

It incorporates technological advances and has clinical advantages over traditional devices. A detailed comparison is provided in “Advantages of the SENSUS™ Pain Management System”, available at www.SENSUSRx.com.

Are there studies on the effectiveness of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation in painful diabetic neuropathy?

Yes, there are published studies and evidence-based reviews. For more information, see “The Use of Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation for the Treatment of Painful Diabetic Neuropathy”, available at www.SENSUSRx.com.

Can SENSUS be used for painful neuropathies other than due to diabetes?

Yes, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation has been shown to be effective in chronic pain due to post herpetic neuralgia, chemotherapy induced neuropathy, and other neuropathies.

Is SENSUS useful in patients with restless leg syndrome?

There are only anecdotal case reports of the benefit of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation in restless leg syndrome.

Can SENSUS be used for non-neuropathic lower extremity pain?

SENSUS is broadly indicated for symptomatic relief of chronic pain so it may be useful in patients suffering from pain in the lower extremities, such as in the foot and ankle.

Why should I consider having my patients try it?

SENSUS is a non-narcotic, analgesic option for your patients and therefore may serve as a supplement to pain medications. It provides on-demand pain relief, which may be particularly helpful when the patient experiences breakthrough pain.

Is SENSUS first line therapy?

Before paying for transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, most insurers, including Medicare, require that the physician conclude that the patient has failed to obtain adequate pain relief with other appropriate treatment modalities.

Do I have to write a prescription for it?

Yes, SENSUS is regulated as a prescription device by the FDA. In addition, most insurers, including Medicare, require a trial period of 30 days. After the trial period, you meet with the patient to determine if they are obtaining pain relief. If it is working for your patient, you complete a certificate of medical necessity and a DME supplier does the rest. The DME supplier ships the device to the patient and handles the billing.

How much is it going to cost the patient?

It depends on their insurance plan. The device is a one-time expense. There is a disposable electrode that is changed every 2 weeks. If you want to prescribe SENSUS, the DME supplier will be able to find out how much the patient will have to pay.

Does the device run continuously?

Once activated, the device delivers a 1-hour therapy session. The device has two modes; regular and continuous. When continuous mode is on, the device will restart therapy one hour after the last session completed. This may be convenient if the patient chooses to wear SENSUS during sleep or if they need extended pain relief during the day.

Can the patient use SENSUS while sleeping?

They may use it to help them fall asleep and to keep pain under control while sleeping. The patient may want to set the device for continuous mode in order to obtain overnight pain relief (see User Manual for instructions).

How difficult is it to set up and use?

It is straightforward to set up and convenient to use. Set up out of the box requires just a few minutes. After initial set up, all the patient has to do is press the button to start therapy, change the electrode when needed, and plug in the device to recharge the battery when needed.

How long does it take before the patient starts to feel relief?

For most patients, relief will start within 15 minutes.

How long does relief last after each therapy session?

Some patients may experience relief for up to 30 minutes after a session, but it varies by patient.

If a patient continues to experience pain, how soon after a session can they start therapy again?

Patients may initiate another treatment after waiting 30 minutes following their previous treatment.

Is there a limit on the number of weeks or months that a patient may continue to use SENSUS?

No, there is no time limit as long as the patient continues to receive benefit.

How does the device know how much stimulation to deliver?

When the device is set up by the patient, a quick configuration process adjusts the stimulation intensity to an appropriate therapeutic dose for the patient.

Can the patient increase or decrease the stimulation level during a therapy session?

Yes, with simple button pushes.

Can the patient be active while a therapy session is in process?

Yes.

If a patient is getting good relief using SENSUS, is it possible to reduce medication or even eliminate it?

Only you can decide if medication adjustments are appropriate.

Is there any medication that should not be used in conjunction with SENSUS?

No, although patients on chronic opiate therapy may experience less efficacy due to the mechanism of action of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation.